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OF

PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE

Reſtoration of the KING of TANJORE,

THE

Arreſt of the Right Hon. GEORGE LORD PIGOT,

AND THE

Removal of his LORDSHIP from the Government of FORT ST. GEORGE, by ſundry Members of the Council.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

Containing Letters from different Perſons reſpecting the above Tranſactions, and ſundry other Papers received ſince the Firſt Volume was printed.

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* Letter from Alexander Dalrymple, Eſquire, to the Court of Directors, dated, Alexandria, 19th January 1777, and received over-land 17th March 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors of the Eaſt-India Company.

HONORABLE,

I WROTE from Cairo the 14th, encloſing a Copy of Lord Pigot's Letter to you of the 9th October, by which you will perceive that I came to Suez in the Swallow ſloop of war, to give your Honors the earlieſt and fulleſt intelligence of the ſtate of your affairs on the Coaſt of Coromandel. I expected to have taken my paſſage for Marſeilles immediately from hence, where I arrived this morning; but, much to my ſurprize, I was joined on the road by a guard, who conducted me and my baggage to the Commandant's Houſe, and after detaining me ſeveral hours and examining in the minuteſt manner all my things, which they have ſealed up till orders are received from Cairo, let me out, on the aſſurance of M. Brandi, an Italian gentleman, acting Conſul here for the Northern Powers and Naples, that he would be reſponſible I did not leave the place before thoſe Anſwers came. The reaſon aſſigned for this proceeding is, that on our departure from Suez the Baſhaw's officers there put ſeals on our trunks, &c. On our arrival at Cairo, Mr. Baldwin ſaid it was what he had no right to do, and deſired them to be opened. Colonel Capper having opened his hand-eſcrutore, I was induced to open mine alſo, being apprehenſive that the great rains we had in the journey from Suez to Cairo might have damaged the papers, and ſolicitous to tranſmit to your Honors the contents of the packet above-mentioned before my departure. Opening theſe packages is made the pretext for this embargo, as they ſuppoſe valuable effects have been removed; and they aſſented to our departure from Cairo, in hopes that thoſe imaginary treaſures would be replaced, and fall into their hands on a ſearch here. What may be the

* Since the receipt of this Letter a Duplicate has been received, with variations and additions; alſo with a Memorandum, or Poſtſcript, which is hereunto annexed.

reſult of their diſappointment time muſt determine. Mr. Baldwin, by a letter juſt now received, intimates, that he ſees no likelihood of matters being accommodated but for a much larger ſum than I can authorize him to give; and your packets, as well as every other paper, remain at preſent, ſealed up by Mr. Brandi, in poſſeſſion of this Government. This circumſtance muſt be my excuſe for being leſs explicit in regard to the ſtate of your affairs on the Coaſt of Coromandel; but I write this for your information, in caſe any accident ſhould happen further to us.

2. The execution of your orders for reſtoring Tanjore to the Rajah, though grounded on juſtice and good policy, and highly honorable to the nation, was extremely diſguſting to the Nabob, as the acquiſition of that kingdom had long been the favourite object of his purſuit, that being almoſt the only Gentoo Government in the Carnatic; the Nabob having, on various pretences, rooted out the others ſince Lord Pigot's former adminiſtration, and by theſe means increaſed his revenues above L. 350,000 per annum. The Nabob could not be prevailed on to give his conſent to the reſtitution; in which it is ſaid he was encouraged by Sir Robert Fletcher's aſſurances, that Lord Pigot dared not carry the Company's orders into execution without his, the Nabob's, conſent. However, after much delay, it was determined, nemine contradicente, to carry the orders into effect without his concurrence; and it was unanimouſly reſolved in Council, that it was neceſſary and proper for the Preſident to proceed to Tanjore in perſon, to carry the Company's orders into execution, by reſtoring the Rajah to the Government of his country. Accordingly Lord Pigot left Madraſs the end of March, effected the buſineſs, and returned the beginning of May.

3. On our return Lord Pigot's conduct met with the approbation of the Council; Sir Robert Fletcher having gone away on pretence of indiſpoſition, after concurring in accepting the ſum offered by the Rajah for the defence of his country. Some of the other Members excepted to his Lordſhip's proceedings concerning the Dobbeer; and Mr. Mackay alſo to the puniſhment his Lordſhip had ordered to be inflicted on a Madraſs Dubaſh,

named Comera, who, the Rajah complained, had intruded himſelf into his preſence, when gone to ſleep, the very night of our arrival, telling him Lord Pigot would recommend to him to put his country under the Company's protection, and require an Engliſh garriſon to be kept in the fort; but adviſing him to be firm in refuſing theſe propoſitions, and to reply, that he would govern his country as his father had done, and protect it with his own troops; and aſſuring the Rajah he (Comera) was ſupported by ſeven Members of the Council. Every head of the Reſolutions of the Council it appeared this man had been made acquainted with, and adviſed the Rajah to oppoſe, offering to ſupply him any ſum of money he might want. It was ſuſpected the Nabob had employed him as an emiſſary, to counſel the Rajah to his deſtruction. Lord Pigot cut his machinations very ſhort, by ordering him to be chabucked on the public parade.

4. This man had been the inſtrument employed in bringing on the Rajah's misfortunes; the ſtory I heard at Tanjore, and informed Lord Pigot, who aſked the Rajah, and was aſſured that it was fact, at leaſt the moſt material circumſtances, the Rajah only reciting to his Lordſhip what he himſelf knew: perhaps writing from memory I may err in ſome trivial circumſtances, but the general ſubſtance is too ſtrongly imprinted on my memory to be forgotten.

5. The Nabob having, on various pretences, got the Adminiſtration to embark in the expedition againſt Tanjore in Mr. Dupré's government; and his ſon having then (in 1771) whilſt our army lay before Tanjore, concluded a treaty with the Rajah; by this treaty the Rajah engaged to pay, including preſents, 52 Lacks of Rupees: he accordingly, having borrowed money, and pledged part of his jewels with the Dutch, paid 40 Lacks in two years. The Nabob, ſtill ſolicitous to get Tanjore, repreſented at Madraſs, that the Rajah did not mean to pay the money he had engaged. As ſoon as the Rajah heard this, being very much alarmed at the idea of the Nabob's intending to bring the Engliſh againſt him, he ſent for Comera, who happened to be then at Tanjore, being concerned in lending

lending money on mortgages in that country. The Rajah told him his fears, and aſked him if he could give him bills payable at Madraſs for the 12 Lacks which remained due; Comera aſſured him he would, and received a valuable preſent in conſequence of his giving a bill on his maſter Mr. Benfield. The Rajah tranſmitted this bill to the Nabob, and ſent a Vackeel, with two fine horſes, ſome jewels, and other preſents, to the Nabob, together with a letter, expreſſing, that as he had now diſcharged his engagements, he hoped to be received into favour. Before the Rajah diſpatched the bill, he ſent for Comera, and interrogated him if the money would certainly be paid; he aſſured him it would, and ſwore upon milk, which is a ſolemn atteſtation amongſt them, in teſtimony of the truth of what he ſaid.

6. The Nabob ſtopped Comera in his way to Madraſs; and having ſettled with him, when the Vackeel was received, in preſence of all the other Vackeels from the country princes, the Nabob flew out into a violent rage, abuſing the Rajah for a raſcal, and appealing to all the Vackeels, declaring he had received no bill, and that this was only a knaviſh trick of the Rajah. The Vackeel, ſtruck with aſtoniſhment, declared the bill was given by Comera on Mr. Benfield; and Comera being produced, vowed he knew nothing of the matter, and that he had given no bill. This was one of the arguments urged for the ſecond ſiege of Tanjore; at the ſame time Comera trumped up a ſtory to amuſe the Rajah, aſſuring him, that he had ſettled every thing with Governor Wynch, and that the Rajah had nothing to fear, at the very time his deſtruction was determined. The Rajah, before the commencement of the war, wrote to the Governor of Madraſs, profeſſing his intentions of adhering to his engagements, and mentioning his having ſent this bill on Mr. Benfield. That gentleman, thinking this letter required ſome notice on his part, wrote a letter to the Preſident and Council, that he thought it neceſſary to explain what he knew of the matter, as his name was mentioned by the Rajah, though unneceſſarily. He obſerved, that a *black man to the ſouthward, with whom he had ſome mercantile concerns*, had drawn a bill upon him, without his authority, on the

the ſecurity of a mortgage in the Tanjore country; and that the inſtant he heard of it, he, as a faithful ſervant to the Company, in obedience to their orders, would have nothing to do with it; and that his Highneſs the Nabob was well acquainted with all the circumſtances. This *black man to the ſouthward* was Mr. Benfield's ſervant Comera, and Mr. Benfield now alledges he has mortgages in the Tanjore country to a great amount.

7. Mr. Benfield finding there was an end to all his projects in the Tanjore country, by the reſtoration of that country to the Rajah, and the puniſhment inflicted on Comera, left no ſtone unturned to embarraſs Lord Pigot; and after a Reſolution paſſed the Council, that the Adminiſtration could not interfere in his favour concerning his tranſactions in the Tanjore country; the Nabob's claims of mortgages on that country being inadmiſſible, in conſequence of the Company's orders to reſtore the country to the Rajah; and Mr. Benfield's other claims not being ſufficiently explained; Mr. Benfield, with whom moſt of the Madraſs people are involved, had influence enough to get this Reſolution revoked, the Nabob having conciliated ſome of the Members who had hitherto ſupported his Lordſhip.

8. Nothing followed but continual diſſenſions in Council; there was a conſtant majority againſt Lord Pigot in every thing which concerned the Nabob or Tanjore; and Colonel Stuart having found that Lord Pigot's protection would not be ſo profitable to him as the countenance of the adverſe party, eſtranged himſelf totally from Lord Pigot, and attached himſelf to Mr. Benfield, &c. Colonel Stuart ſoon after his arrival was appointed to the command of Vellour, at the recommendation of Sir Robert Fletcher, who aſſigned ſuch good reaſons for this appointment, that I, as well as others of Lord Pigot's friends, very heartily concurred in the meaſure, although his Lordſhip had mentioned in Council that Colonel Stuart wiſhed to go to the ſouthward. Some time after, when Colonel Stuart had changed his attachments, he wrote a Letter to Sir Robert Fletcher, claiming Tanjore as the moſt important command, although only three companies of Europeans were in that place, and a whole battalion at Vellour; and Sir

Robert Fletcher recommended that he ſhould be accordingly appointed. There was a conſiderable time paſſed between this application and any reſolution upon it; and in the mean while the Rajah having learnt that Colonel Stuart was intended to be ſent down, and very much alarmed that a perſon intimately connected with Mr. Benfield, &c. ſhould be ſent, requeſted that Colonel Harper might be continued in the command. This the Majority abſolutely refuſed, and reſolved that Colonel Stuart ſhould be appointed.

9. Lord Pigot had recommended that a Chief and Council ſhould be eſtabliſhed at Tanjore, which he knew would be very acceptable to the Rajah, and was convinced would be beneficial to the Company. The Majority carried this in the negative; but Mr. Ruſſell was appointed Reſident there without a Council; Mr. Stratton, who had voted againſt the other, voting for this: however, the very day of Mr. Dawſon's departure, that Gentleman having always ſupported Lord Pigot, Mr. Jourdan threw down upon the Conſultation Table a paper, which he ſaid was a Motion about the Committee of Circuit, and Mr. Mackay ſeconded it before it was read, or the contents explained; it was, "That the Committee of Circuit "(of which Mr. Ruſſell was a member) ſhould immediately ſet out." The obvious intention was to prevent Mr. Ruſſell from proceeding to Tanjore, which was become the more neceſſary, from the refuſal of the Majority to grant the Rajah's requeſt to continue Colonel Harper in the command, who was an unexceptionable man, and had always been particularly attentive not to give offence to the Gentoos in their ceremonies and cuſtoms; and the reports which had been ſpread that Lord Pigot was ſhortly to return to England. Lord Pigot thought it neceſſary that a perſon of conſequence ſhould go to Tanjore to remove all the Rajah's apprehenſions, and aſſure him, that he might rely on your Honors protection; and his Lordſhip made choice of Mr. Ruſſell, not only as a perſon likely to gain the Rajah's confidence, but as his appointment would teſtify that his Lordſhip had not loſt all influence in the Council, as was induſtriouſly propagated. Every argument and entreaty his Lordſhip could uſe were in vain; the Majority

jority of the Council repeatedly refuſed to let Mr. Ruſſell go to Tanjore, even for a few days; and his Lordſhip was, for the reaſons he had repeatedly given, induced to declare, he never would give his aſſent to Colonel Stuart's going until Mr. Ruſſell went. This matter remained long in altercation; but in Auguſt the Majority determined to carry their point, which was become of the more conſequence, from the very extraordinary pains the Nabob had taken to prevent Mr. Ruſſell's appointment; a matter in which, apparently, his intereſt was not in any degree concerned; and it was ſaid Colonel Stuart had undertaken, for a profitable conſideration, to manage Mr. Benfield's concerns, and was to carry a relation of Comera as his Dubaſh.

10. When the matter came into conſideration, Lord Pigot again repeated his requeſt that Mr. Ruſſell might be permitted to go to Tanjore; begging, that as it was in itſelf a matter which could not be of eſſential injury to the Company, they would grant it to his requeſt, if they ſtill continued to think the appointment unneceſsary. However they were inflexible, and gave in ſeparate Minutes in writing, that Colonel Stuart ſhould be ſent with inſtructions, which they expreſſed their approbation of, although thoſe inſtructions had not been read or conſidered at the Council Board. Lord Pigot declared he would not put his name to any inſtructions at that time to Colonel Stuart; and the Majority, probably to conſult with Sir Robert Fletcher, who was not preſent, deſired the Council might be adjourned, as it was a very ſerious matter, and required time to conſider what ſhould be done: this the Preſident readily aſſented to. When the Council again met, his Lordſhip obſerved, that Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore was not eſſential to the Company's intereſt; he repreſented the many inconveniences that would attend carrying matters further, the difficulty it would lay the officers under, who are ordered to obey the Preſident and his Council by the Commiſſion of Government which conſtitutes him the Governor, and names the ſeveral perſons appointed in Council the better to enable him to manage the affairs of the Company; obſerving, that the tenor of all Commiſſions requires obedience to the Preſident and Council, without any

proviſo

proviſo of a *Majority* of Council; he earneſtly entreated that it might be left to your Honors' deciſion, whether the *Majority* could act without the Preſident's concurrence, which he knew from his own experience in forty years ſervice never had been done, and the records of the Company in former times ſhew was not the original conſtitution; not to mention the Royal Charter of 1753, conſtituting the Courts of Juſtice, in which, in almoſt every inſtance where the Council is named, the Governor is expreſsly required to be *one*. That a Preſident could do nothing againſt the conſent of his Council, but that his concurrence was equally neceſſary to conſtitute an act of Government as the conſent of the Majority; which concurrence, indeed, a Preſident would in general give, even againſt his own opinion, as he, by refuſing his aſſent, took the whole reſponſibility upon himſelf; but in caſes where no eſſential detriment could happen by his refuſal, but much inconvenience might enſue from his aſſent, it was his duty to withhold it. All he could urge was in vain; and as the mode of their proceeding had been mentioned in the debate of the former day, his Lordſhip came prepared for all probable events; and when Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke put their names to a Letter to the Secretary, to ſign Colonel Stuart's inſtructions *By Order of the Council*, inſtead of the uſual form, *By Order of the Preſident and Council*, his Lordſhip deſired it might be handed to him; which being done, he ſaid he would ſtop the buſineſs in that ſtage, and produced a charge againſt thoſe gentlemen, as being guilty of an act ſubverſive of the authority of Government, and tending to introduce anarchy, by ſigning an order to the Secretary to iſſue inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, which had not been approved and paſſed by the Preſident and Council. The matter was come to that alternative, or the Governor appointed by your Honors muſt have been a cypher; except when they found it convenient to make uſe of him as a ſtalking horſe, for every baſe act they might think proper to uſe his name in. Purſuant to the ſtanding orders, "That whenever a charge is "made againſt any Member of the Council they are to withdraw," the Preſident moved, that thoſe gentlemen ſhould withdraw; explaining himſelf, that he did not mean to leave the room, but only their ſeats at the Council Board. An adjournment of the Council was propoſed, which

ſeemed to meet the general concurrence, that the gentlemen might have time to make a reply to the charge, or remove it by an acquieſcence with the Preſident's former recommendation to refer it to your Honors; but they declared they did not conſider it as a charge, and that it did not deſerve any anſwer. The Preſident then moved, that they ſhould be ſuſpended till your pleaſure be known; which was paſſed in the affirmative by the Preſident's caſting vote.

11. Next day all the Members of Council preſent at Madraſs, except the two ſuſpended Members, were ſummoned to Council; Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, inſtead of attending according to the ſummons, ſent by a Notary Public a letter, ſigned by themſelves and by Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, declaring they were the only legal repreſentatives of the Company. Of this letter no notice was taken, as it was thought ſome at leaſt would reflect on the impropriety of their proceedings, and it was intended to ſummon them again to the next Council. However, in the afternoon, copies of this letter were, by their order, circulated in the garriſon to the officer of the main guard, the town major, ſecretaries, &c. This act tending to excite a mutiny required immediate attention; the Preſident called a Council, when Sir Robert Fletcher was ordered into arreſt, and the other gentleman ſuſpended: Colonel Stuart was of courſe appointed to the command of the troops, and he ſupped with Lord Pigot in the Fort houſe; his Lordſhip not thinking it proper to go out of the Fort that evening to ſup at the Company's Garden-houſe, as he uſually did, although he always returned at night to the Fort. Colonel Stuart next morning invited himſelf to breakfaſt with his Lordſhip, and afterwards to dinner.

12. Lord Pigot being informed that the Nabob was under the greateſt apprehenſions from what had happened in Council, to quiet his fears added a paragraph to a letter which had been reſolved on in Council ſome days before, in which his Lordſhip obſerved, that he was ſenſible the contents of that letter were on ſubjects not agreeable to his Highneſs; that nothing

could have induced him to mention them but his duty to the Company, aſſuring the Nabob he would be happy if his Highneſs would point out in what manner he could teſtify his regard; and this his Lordſhip ſent by Mr. Holland, the Company's Tranſlator.

13. In the evening, at the Fort-houſe, Colonel Stuart, in preſence of Mr. Ruſſell, Myſelf, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Lathom, ſtrenuouſly urged delay till next morning, but at laſt aſſured Lord Pigot, upon *his honour*, that he would that night iſſue to the out garriſons the order of Sir Robert Fletcher's being under arreſt, if we would order the Tappies to be detained, which was done accordingly. His Lordſhip was deceived by the candour of his own diſpoſition, and had no ſuſpicion of Colonel Stuart's villainy, who was only amuſing him till it was dark; Colonel Stuart having at this time an order in his pocket, ſigned by himſelf, to Captain Lyſaught, for conveying his Lordſhip a priſoner to the Mount.

14. Lord Pigot went with Colonel Stuart, he having aſked his Lordſhip to convey him to the Company's Garden-houſe to ſupper; when the chaiſe was got about half a mile from the Fort, Colonel Edington, the Adjutant-General, came running towards them, and when he approached the horſes heads, he waved his drawn ſword, and called out *Scapoys!* when a party came from the other ſide, and Captain Lyſaught came up to the chaiſe with a piſtol in his hand, and told Lord Pigot he was his priſoner; and Colonel Stuart, taking his Lordſhip by the arm, ſaid, "Get out." Lord Pigot was then conducted to Mr. Benfield's poſt-chaiſe, which was ſtanding by the road ſide; an orderly ſerjeant came out of it, and his Lordſhip was deſired to get in; Captain Lyſaught followed, keeping the piſtol in his hand, and conveyed him to the Mount, where he delivered him as a priſoner into the cuſtody of Major Horne, who commanded the artillery cantoned there. Colonel Stuart returned to the Fort, and declared Mr. Stratton to be the Governor.

15. Mr.

15. Mr. Stratton and his Aſſociates publiſhed a Proclamation, in the *name of his Majeſty* and the *Engliſh Nation*, declaring the motives of their conduct in making his Lordſhip a priſoner, which was principally grounded on Lord Pigot's having refuſed his aſſent to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore, which the Majority had determined to be *neceſſary*; though, ſince their aſſuming the Government, that *neceſſity* has vaniſhed, Colonel Stuart's preſence having been thought ſtill more neceſſary for their protection. The other motives were, his Lordſhip having inſiſted that he had a right to adjourn the Council, maintaining his aſſent being neceſſary to make an act of Government, and his refuſing to put a queſtion to the vote, notwithſtanding the ſenſe of the majority.

16. His Lordſhip never propoſed an adjournment to ſtop any enquiry againſt himſelf or his friends, but there muſt be ſome rules of order; and it ſeems the natural office of the Preſident to adjourn as to call a Council; otherwiſe an oppoſition, with ſtrong conſtitutions, might, by relieving each other, carry any meaſure they pleaſed, or put a total ſtop to all buſineſs.

17. The objection concerning his Lordſhip's refuſing to put a queſtion to the vote requires ſome explanation. The eſtabliſhed cuſtom of the ſervice, confirmed by your Honor's orders, and the recent reſolutions of the Council, when a public advertiſement was affixed to the gates to that effect, many of the Members of the preſent Majority concurring therein, is, that all intercourſe with the country powers ſhall be confined to the Preſident; by the laxity of Government this and almoſt every other regulation had been broke through; not long before our arrival this order was enforced, forbidding viſits to the Nabob, &c. without the Preſident's leave; and the Governor-General and Council in Bengal, to whom the matter had been referred by Mr. Wynch and his Council, declared the prohibition was conformable to the eſtabliſhed regulations of the ſervice and your orders. On Lord Pigot's arrival, finding ſpies had been kept on the Nabob to bring account of every thing he ſaid, he informed the

Nabob that he had removed all theſe, and would not reſtrain any body from viſiting him, being perſuaded his Highneſs would pay that attention to his old friend's advice, which no other perſon would be able to withdraw, ſhould there be any one ſo inclined. When Lord Pigot found that the proceedings in Council were communicated to the Nabob immediately, and had good reaſon to believe Members of the Board had given the Nabob advice to obſtruct him in the management of the Company's affairs, he thought it proper to withdraw the general licenſe, and on a motion in Council it paſſed as a reſolution, that no Member of the Council ſhould viſit or receive viſits from the Nabob or his Sons.

18. Sir Robert Fletcher was one who voted againſt this reſolution; ſome time after he propoſed a Motion to reſcind that reſolution; his Lordſhip obſerved, that paſſing reſolutions one day, and reſcinding them the next, were extremely prejudicial to the Company's intereſt, by making the Government contemptible for its fickleneſs; but in the preſent inſtance, it was by the regulations of the Service, and the orders of the Company, a privilege veſted in their Governor, and was not therefore a proper ſubject of the Council's diſcuſſion; that he would not put the queſtion, although it was almoſt the only queſtion he could think of that he would not put, as he knew the reſolution was entirely conformable to the Company's orders, of the propriety of which orders he was every day ſenſible; that he ſaw a breach of thoſe orders, by reſcinding the reſolution, could anſwer no purpoſe but increaſing his difficulties in tranſacting the Company's affairs. At the ſame time that he refuſed to put this queſtion of Sir Robert Fletcher for reſcinding a former reſolution, he offered to put one of Mr. Mackay's for reſcinding another reſolution, becauſe that did not concern the Company eſſentially, but himſelf. However Mr. Mackay declined having it put, as the other was refuſed. It may alſo be obſerved, that if Members in a Minority can again introduce when they pleaſe a matter which has been carried by a Majority, the ſame ſubject may be eternally renewed, and a total ſtop put to all buſineſs.

19. Mr.

19. Mr. Mackay, who now pretends to be ſo much the Nabob's friend, propoſed in Council, ſoon after the Grenville's arrival, to ſeize the Nabob's perſon; and afterwards endeavoured to perſuade me that my objections to it, as a breach of public faith which no apprehenſions could vindicate, were romantic and unſupported, and that my notions were incompatible with public buſineſs.

20. Almoſt the firſt act of the ſelf-made Government was to write letters to Mr. Ruſſell, Myſelf, and Mr. Stone, ſaying, the ſupport we had given to Lord Pigot convinced them no dependence could be put in us, and therefore that they ſuſpended us the ſervice; and they afterwards wrote a ſimilar letter to Mr. Lathom, who had attended but one Council.

21. The morning after the Nabob came in great ſtate into the Fort to congratulate Mr. Stratton, and gave public teſtimony of his rejoicing. It is reported, however, that they have in vain endeavoured to get from him, in writing, the ſanction of his name to the meaſures they have purſued, though his gold has the credit of being the inſtrument which brought about theſe events.

22. Immediately after aſſuming the Government, Mr. Stratton, &c. promiſed a reward in public orders to the ſoldiers, doubled the port guards, and appointed a piquet guard, being alarmed by their own fears; and ſent an order to Major Horne, under their hands, that in caſe of any attempt being made to reſcue Lord Pigot, his Lordſhip's life muſt anſwer it; and a few days after Colonel Edington was ſent to remove his Lordſhip at midnight from the Mount, he would not tell whither. It is now ſaid Chingleput was the place, but there are good grounds to believe that would not have been his Lordſhip's fate. However Lord Pigot declared he would not truſt himſelf with a traitor, and that whilſt he had life he would not be removed from thence, but to his own Fort or his Majeſty's ſhip. His determination, and the ſenſe the men ſeemed to have of his Lordſhip's ſituation, induced Major Horne to become

 ſecurity

ſecurity for that time. It ſince appears, by the affidavit of Mr. Randall, who is gone to England in the Grenville, that the Nabob's ſecond ſon had before this been tampering for his Lordſhip's aſſaſſination; great pains have been taken to invalidate Mr. Randall's evidence, but there is ſcarce a man in the Settlement who *is* not *now of opinion*, or who has not heretofore expreſſed ſuch ſentiments, that the ſecond ſon is capable of that or any villainy to promote his ambitious views; for my own part I have not experience or knowledge of him to judge from my own obſervations.

23. The Governor-General and Council in Bengal have taken a decided part, in declaring they will ſupport Mr. Stratton, &c. in the Government, although they ſay they were not then become maſters of all the circumſtances which produced this event. This reſolution of their's will probably ſecure his Lordſhip's perſon for the preſent, but men are not without apprehenſions on that account hereafter. His Lordſhip bears his ſituation with that dignity, fortitude, and tranquillity, which conſtitute his character.

24. This change has taken away all confidence the natives had in our Government, as they cannot think themſelves ſecure, either in their perſons or property, when they ſee a Governor, of ſuch known abilities and diſtinguiſhed public ſervices, can be deprived of that government, which his ſpirited conduct ſaved from the public enemy, and whoſe commiſſion expreſsly ſays he ſhall continue in the execution of that truſt till removed by the Court of Directors; and whether this be effected by an appeal to the army, who are to obey and not to judge, or by the mandate of the Nabob, is equally alarming. It is poſitively ſaid the Nabob has opened his hoards upon the occaſion, and that Mortiz Aly Cawn's money, taken in Vellour in 1762, has been produced, and the half-batta has been reſtored.

25. A few days before Lord Pigot was ſeized, Sir Robert Fletcher, who, being indiſpoſed, had not attended Council, ſent a letter recommending that the Europeans ſhould be removed from Madraſs, and

that

that the half-batta ſhould be reſtored, reproaching himſelf for his haſty acquieſcence in that propoſition of the Preſident; by which he obviouſly meant to alienate the affections of the army from the Governor, although he and all his aſſociates had concurred in that meaſure without objection; and it now appears he had gained over the Captains of the two battalions of Seapoys ſtationed at Madraſs, viz. Edington and Barclay.

26. Soon after Lord Pigot was made a priſoner, Mr. Benfield and Comera went to Tanjore. Mr. Benfield carried a letter, which he endeavoured to get the Rajah to write to Madraſs, but the Rajah poſitively refuſed. It is ſuppoſed this letter was an accuſation of or complaint againſt Lord Pigot; and Mr. Stratton tells the Rajah in a letter, that he knows him to be weak, timid, and obſtinate. This letter I believe went by Mr. Benfield, and was the commencement of his correſpondence. Your Honors may eaſily conceive what the Rajah muſt feel on the occaſion.

27. The particular ſituation in which I am, deprived of acceſs to all papers, will be my excuſe for this imperfect narration: I ſhall only add, that I am,

Honorable,

Your faithful humble Servant,

Alexandria,
19th January 1777.

A. DALRYMPLE.

P. S. His Majeſty's ſloop Swallow, Captain Panton, is now at Suez; as ſeveral of his people have the ſcurvy, and all of them require refreſhment, the ſoutherly winds, which continue about a month, may perhaps ſet in before he is ready to depart; it is therefore *poſſible* your Honors, by an application to the Lords of the Admiralty,

miralty, might obtain an order from their Lordſhips in time for her continuance at Suez to carry your diſpatches. Veſſels have come from Marſeilles to this place in eleven days.

* MEMORANDUM. The foregoing letter having been written from memory without recourſe to any papers, I perceive a few miſtakes to be corrected, and I think ſome additions neceſſary; theſe additions are chiefly from authentic tranſlations of letters from and to the King of Tanjore, and from ſome memorandums of Lord Pigot's in my poſſeſſion; the laſt I have marked L. P. to diſtinguiſh them from my own: the references mark the paragraph of the letter to which they relate.

Par. 3. "As ſettling affairs at Tanjore without the Nabob's conſent "was a matter in which many difficulties might be expected, and where "an impediment might by a ſhort delay become an inſurmountable "obſtacle, I thought it would be proper to go thither myſelf to execute "the Company's orders, and all the Members of the Council agreed "*unanimouſly*, that it was *proper* and *neceſſary* for me to go to Tanjore."

"Some Members were propoſed to be joined in deputation, but the "Majority over-ruled that propoſal, which came from Sir Robert Flet- "cher, who objected to the management of the Tanjore buſineſs being "intruſted to the Preſident *alone*; although but a little time before he "had propoſed to me, and has ſince entered that Minute on record, "that the *whole* charge ſhould be entruſted to the *military officer* at Tan- "jore. Mens' diſappointments on this occaſion, ſeveral Members having "expreſſed their wiſhes to me in private that they might go to Tanjore, "together with private concerns and connexions, laid the foundation of "that oppoſition which has uniformly ſubſiſted ſince then. Sir Robert "Fletcher, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Jourdan, and Mr. Mackay diſſented on "the ſubject of a deputation. To convince them and the world that I "had no ſiniſter view in going to Tanjore, I offered to carry with

* This Memorandum was received, with a corrected copy of the foregoing Letter, the 7th of April 1777.

"me

"me Mr. Jourdan, who had before applied to me to go thither, and he "accepted my offer, although there was no deputation."

"I proceeded to Tanjore the 30th March, re-eſtabliſhed the Rajah in "his Government, and returned to Madraſs, where I arrived the 5th May, "having received a letter from the Rajah, requeſting that the Company "would not only garriſon the fort, but protect his whole country with "their troops, for which he offered to pay annually 400,000 Pagodas."

"Upon my return my conduct was approved by the Council, who "unanimouſly agreed to accept the Rajah's offer of 400,000 Pagodas "per annum, in conſideration of defending the Tanjore country."

"Had the *Fort of Tanjore alone* been garriſoned by us, and the country "defended by the Rajah's troops, there would have been conſtant diſputes "between them and the Nabob's people in every quarter; and if our "garriſon in Tanjore was not ſo large as to awe the Rajah's forces, inſtead "of being a ſecurity and additional ſtrength to the Company on this "Coaſt, a garriſon in Tanjore would have greatly weakened them; the "Rajah would probably have removed the ſeat of his reſidence to ſome "other place; but by protecting the whole country the Rajah is more "firmly eſtabliſhed, having nothing to fear from any parties at home, or "enemies from abroad; and being eaſed of a great expenſe, the money ſti-"pulated to be paid to the Company (being very conſiderably leſs than "what his military uſually coſt) the Rajah will have a ſum annually to "lay out in improving his country, to which his attention will be ſolely "directed; and the Tanjore country being on all ſides confined by the "Nabob's country or the ſea, the Company cannot be under the "neceſſity to make any increaſe in their military eſtabliſhment on that "account; but on the contrary, there being but one intereſt in the Car-"natic, there is leſs danger, having none but foreign foes to guard againſt "and nobody within to unite with them."

" Some meaſure of this kind was eſſentially neceſſary, for although our " receipts on this coaſt have been adequate to defray our expenſes and " inveſtment, the Company for ſome time paſt receiving the arrears of the " Nabob's debt to the amount of about 400,000 Pagodas per annum, yet, " when the whole of this debt is paid off, which will be in little more " than a year, there will then be a deficiency in the receipts, and conſe- " quently either the inveſtment muſt have been leſſened, or the preſent " eſtabliſhment muſt have been diminiſhed, as it is the higheſt abſurdity " to keep up troops in time of peace which you are unable to pay; ſo " that it was a very happy incident to make this proviſion in a manner " entirely to the ſatisfaction, and for the intereſt of both parties. The " Governor-General and Council of Bengal condemn me for having " uſed my influence with the Rajah to get him to write the letter making " this offer, although I muſt have been wanting in every ſenſe of my " duty if I had not, as it was ſo much the intereſt of the Company, and " of the Carnatic in general; and as it was unanimouſly reſolved in Council, " that it was neceſſary to have the whole military force in the Carnatic " under the Company, and paid by them, the ſafety of the Carnatic " depending on a well diſciplined force, regularly paid, being kept up, " which troops in the ſervice of the country powers never are for any " length of time; and the Board alſo were unanimous in their *wiſh*, that " the Rajah of Tanjore might join them in their endeavous to place the " country in this ſituation."

" But at the ſame time I muſt do the Rajah juſtice to ſay, that " although he very readily conceived the propriety of what I repreſented " to him, and as readily aſſented to it, yet ſo far from his letter being *more* " than a *ſenſe* of *gratitude* could *draw* from *any Prince* *, that the offer of " territory about Devy Cotah came entirely from himſelf, without a " hint on my part, and his ſenſe of gratitude and attachment to the " Company for reſtoring him to his liberty and kingdom without reſerva-

* Bengal Letter.

" tion was unlimited, ſo that he thought he could not by any words or " actions ſufficiently expreſs his confidence in them." L. P.

Par. 10. The Preſident had the day before aſſured them, that if they would acquieſce in his claim of putting a negative till the pleaſure of the Court of Directors was known, he would not put that negative, except on extraordinary occaſions, where the intereſt of the Company was eſſentially at ſtake.

Par. 10. Lord Pigot ſays, " he was aſſured the Majority had bound " themſelves by an oath to ſupport each other." L. P. This circumſtance I did not recollect when the Letter was written.

Par. 15. I find Colonel Stuart's words were, " Go, Sir," or " go out, " Sir."

Par. 16. On theſe three heads Lord Pigot had, in reply to a former Minute from them, expreſſed himſelf very clearly in the draft of a General Letter to the Court of Directors, propoſed to be ſent by the Grenville, which he laid before the Council the 19th Auguſt; and therefore theſe matters being referred to the Court of Directors, who were alone competent to decide upon them, cannot be conſidered as any grounds for their proceedings. Vide alſo the laſt Note but one.

Par. 23. Some time before this (21ſt July) an anonymous Perſian Letter was left in the Fort-houſe; in this Letter are the following paragraphs.

" I can with great eaſe procure many proofs in writing of the aſſiſtance " given to the Nabob by Members of the Council, and I ſhall in preſence " of his Lordſhip make a public declaration of what ſums have been " received by theſe gentlemen, on condition that the Members of the Com- " pany in Europe ſhall give me a Cowle granting me their protection."

" The

" The Nabob ſays publickly in the Durbar, Who is Lord Pigot? I " will not condeſcend to ſee him, and I will ſpend Pagodas to get him turn- " ed out of his government; my ſons even ſhall not be permitted to viſit " him. The Commodore, a Sirdar of the King of England, ſees me " often, and I can manage my affairs through his means."

Ameer-ul Omrah, the Nabob's ſecond ſon, has declared publickly, " That " he has been at great pains to form a Majority in his favour of the Mem- " bers of the Board, and that Lord Pigot *will ſhortly be turned out of the* " *Council Room.*" And I am aſſured, ſince his Lordſhip's confinement, from what I think very good authority, that Hyder Ally's Vackeel affirms, the Nabob's ſecond ſon declared to him, " That he (Mr. Benfield) and " Colonel Stuart contrived and executed it, and that he can now do in " Council what he pleaſed."

In regard to the firſt paragraph quoted of the anonymous Letter, I think it not amiſs to obſerve, that one day in Council, before Lord Pigot went to Tanjore, Sir Robert Fletcher expreſſed ſurprize that there was not a Letter from the Nabob; and unguardedly recited ſome circumſtances which were contained in a Letter ſent by the Nabob ſoon after: I had withdrawn when he recited thoſe circumſtances, but they were ſo pointed, that both Lord Pigot and Mr. Ruſſell afterwards took notice of them to me.

The anonymous Letter adds, " The Nabob was once determined to " have entered into all Lord Pigot's meaſures, as he was convinced his " Lordſhip was not to be led into his; but ſome Engliſh gentlemen told " him, that he ſhould not liſten to his Lordſhip; that the King of " England and the Parliament were his friends, and could proſecute the " Company for their orders. The Nabob, thus inſtructed by them, grew " bold and refractory, or elſe he would have aſſented to whatever the " Company ordered."

" Soon

Soon after the Grenville's arrival Lord Pigot told me he was informed there were different opinions in the Nabob's Durbar about the Tanjore buſineſs; that the Nabob's old Counſellors had given their opinion to this effect, "This muſt be done, Lord Pigot is a firm man, but it may be "done by *conſent* or *compulſion*. Lord Pigot has ever been your friend; "if done in the manner he recommends, you may be ſure of his friend-"ſhip; and that nothing will be done without your knowledge, and always "in the manner leaſt exceptionable; but if he is compelled to do this "by the Company's authority, you cannot know what it may lead to, or "what may be hereafter done by that authority."

The other party alledged, "This was done not by the Nabob alone, "but by the Governor and Council and Court of Directors; that the Na-"bob had therefore a right to inſiſt that it ſhould not be undone without "referring his caſe to the Court of Directors."

The words are, I find, "timorous, *fickle*, and weak."

Par. 25. The Rajah, in a Letter to his Vackeel at Madraſs, ſays, "On 1ſt "Shaban (15th September) Mr. Benfield and Coletapa Moodaly (Comera) "came to deliver me Mr. Stratton's Letter; the 3d, being a feaſt day, I "was viſited by Coletapa Moodaly only; on the 5th they came together, "and deſired that I would anſwer the Governor's Letter; upon my pro-"miſing to do ſo, Mr. Benfield told me that he would give me a copy of "what I was to write; I aſked him why he ſhould dictate an anſwer to a "Letter I had received? that I myſelf would do it; he told me that I "muſt not act in that manner, that he would go and bring me what I was "to write; he accordingly the next day produced a foul copy of a Letter "in Engliſh, which I had tranſlated; upon examining it I found *that it* "*touched on an accuſation of Lord Pigot*: I then ſaid, it was not proper for "me to write *ſuch things as had not an exiſtence*, but that I would declare "what had happened, and give a direct anſwer to the Letter I received; "this I did, and he got it tranſlated into Engliſh; after which he told "me it *was not proper*, and that *I muſt do as he directed me*; I did every

" thing in my power to excuſe myſelf, but he remained poſitive, and con-
" tinued to importune me every day."

On the 12th Mr. Benfield called upon me, and ſoon after returned home. I then ſent for Coletapa Moodaly, and ſaid to him, " You prevent " me from anſwering the Governor's Letter, and he will be offended at my " not doing it. The oppoſition you make is fruitleſs; you may depend " upon it I will not write what you deſire me; conſent then that I write " a true account of what has happened. You are a man of conſequence; " let us ſettle this buſineſs amicably, and be not diſcontented."

" He would give no ear to what I ſaid, but maliciouſly declared, that he wanted *no ſuch anſwer* to Mr. Stratton's Letter; and deſired that I would write an anſwer to the ſecond Letter, which related to themſelves only: he then went away, threatening that he would not return again. What a ſtate of uncertainty am I in at preſent? Should this man wickedly miſ-repreſent things, who will believe me? On Wedneſday the 13th I wrote and gave him an Anſwer to the ſecond Letter I received; the Anſwer to the firſt now remains by me: I told him that I would be very happy if he received it, but that if he did not I would ſend it through another channel; he told me that he would not take it, and deſired me *to mark what would happen after his departure from hence.* He added,

" You will *repent* this *when* it is *too late*; I will ſee the time when *you will be in the ſame ſituation with his Lordſhip*, and that four Counſellors ſhall be ſtationed here; *then ſee what will befall you:* After this he went home.

" Mr. Benfield told me, that, if I did as he deſired, he would ſettle every thing to my ſatisfaction, and that it would be much to my advantage; if *not*, that I would meet with the *reſentment* of the *Council*, and *none of my wiſhes would be accompliſhed.* This is the manner in which he threatens me; if I refuſe him any thing, I know not what conſequence may await me. Benfield does not conſider my ſtation, or the reſpect that is due to it."

Extracts

Extracts of a Letter from the Vackeel to the Rajah.

" Mr. Stratt[illegible] then ſaid, that you was much impoveriſhed by a ſum of " money you [illegible] given Lord Pigot; I told him, that when Lord Pigot " went to Tanjore, re-eſtabliſhed you, and was returning to Madraſs, he " refuſed even to receive his honorary dreſs which you offered him.

" What money and effects (ſaid I) was there then in the country? " Every thing was carried away, and the bare walls of the Fort only re- " mained ſtanding, that when you was reſtored you had not even a carpet " to ſit upon; and how was it then poſſible that you could give ready " money to his Lordſhip?

" He deſired that I would make particular enquiry, and told me that " his Lordſhip had received two diamonds of great value: I anſwered, that " when the country had been robbed of all the jewels belonging to it, " where could theſe diamonds come from? He then ſaid, that I muſt " enquire of every perſon, and *endeavour* to *bring* his *Lordſhip* in *guilty*; " I told him that I had it not in my power to do ſo.

" He then ſaid, that you had given his Lordſhip and Moodoo Kiſtnah an " obligation for a ſum of money; and that 400,000 Cullums of grain had " come from Tanjore for this purpoſe: I then aſſured him, that *no grain* " *was given to his Lordſhip*; that you had ſent the above-mentioned quan- " tity, as there was an overplus in your country and a ſcarcity of it in " Madraſs*; that no other grain was given; and that the whole was a " report only, and did not deſerve belief.——Mr. Stratton told me, that " *I lied*; that if I would make him fully acquainted with this buſineſs he " would be very much my friend; and he *threw many temptations in the* " *way of your ſervant.* I told him, that you did not allow me to want for " any thing; that I had his favour likewiſe; that I would inform him of " matters of fact, but that *I would not be guilty of telling a falſity.*"

" A. DALRYMPLE."

* This refers to the grain bought by the Company.

Letter

Encloſures in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet.

Letter from Lord Pigot to the Court of Directors, dated St. Thomas's Mount 3d September 1776, received over-land 7 April 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs, &c.

HONORABLE,

THE very extraordinary revolution that has happened within theſe few days, by which I have been deprived of the Government, and am now kept a priſoner, requires your Honors to be made acquainted therewith as ſoon as poſſible by two French ſhips, which ſailed from this coaſt ſome time ago, you will be made acquainted with the diſſenſions in Council, but it will be neceſſary on this occaſion to recapitulate ſome circumſtances.

On 29th May 1776 the Preſident and Council reſolved, that the Nabob's orders in the Tanjore country were by your inſtructions to reſtore the country to the Rajah inadmiſſible, and that the private claims of Mr. Benfield were not ſufficiently explained for the Preſident and Council to form any opinion thereupon; Mr. Brooke concurred in this reſolution; but a few days after he deſired the matter might be re-conſidered; this was very candidly acquieſced in; on reconſidering the Reſolution of the 29th May, Mr. Brooke voted *againſt confirming* it, by which means it was in fact *reſcinded*.

After reſcinding the Reſolution of the 29th May, the King of Tanjore wrote to his Vackeel, expreſſing his apprehenſions at a report propagated that I was ſpeedily to return to England; I gave the Vackeel my aſſurances that there was no truth in this report, but I thought it abſolutely neceſſary to quiet the Rajah's alarms by ſending a perſon of conſequence thither, in whom the Rajah could confide, and propoſed Mr. Ruſſell, who I thought was in every reſpect a proper perſon to gain the Rajah's confidence, and to convince him that your good intentions towards him would be put in execution; and Mr. Ruſſell having in Council given me his ſupport, this ap-

pointment would be a teſtimony to the Rajah that my influence in Council was not entirely loſt, as had been induſtriouſly propagated. I propoſed Mr. Ruſſell to be Chief at Tanjore with a Council, but that queſtion was carried againſt me; I then recommended that Mr. Ruſſell might be ſent to Tanjore as Reſident, and he was accordingly appointed; Mr. Stratton, who had voted againſt a Chief and Council, concurring in the appointment of a Reſident: but the very day of Mr. Dawſon's departure, that Gentleman having ſupported my meaſures, a Motion was made for the Committee of Circuit to proceed immediately. The obvious intention of this Motion was to prevent Mr. Ruſſell's going to Tanjore, the neceſſity of which was become the more urgent by the refuſal of the Majority to grant the Rajah's requeſt, that Lieutenant-Colonel Harper might be continued in the command of Tanjore, and propoſing Colonel Stuart, who was notoriouſly known to be intimately connected with thoſe perſons who had uniformly oppoſed my meaſures concerning Tanjore, and with others, at leaſt ſuſpected by the Rajah, to have been inſtrumental in bringing upon him all the diſtreſſes which he had ſuffered, whoſe money-matters, it was confidently reported, Colonel Stuart had for a pecuniary conſideration undertaken to manage for them.

So circumſtanced, I repeatedly requeſted that Mr. Ruſſell might be allowed to proceed to Tanjore, if it was but for a few days; this was however refuſed by the Majority, and I declared I would not give my aſſent to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore till Mr. Ruſſell was gone thither, for the reaſons beforementioned: the Majority at laſt, on the 22d Auguſt, determined to order the Secretary to ſign inſtructions to Colonel Stuart *by order of Council*, I having refuſed to give them the ſanction of my name. On this occaſion I recommended to them to let the matter reſt till your pleaſure was known, whether a Majority could act without the Governor?—I obſerved, that Colonel Stuart having the command of Tanjore was not a matter eſſential to the Company's intereſt; I repreſented the many inconveniences that would ariſe, the fatal conſequences to themſelves, the difficulties it muſt lay Officers under, who are by their own commiſſions ordered to obey the

Preſident and Council, and are by the commiſſion of Government required to obey me your Preſident and Governor, and my Council, without any the ſmalleſt authority being given to the Majority of the Council over the Officers, Soldiers, &c. I inſiſted the name of the Preſident was neceſſary to make an act of Government; I admitted that the Preſident was generally required to concur with the Majority of the Council for the carrying on the buſineſs of the Company without interruption, but that when he thought meaſures tended to the eſſential detriment of the Company, it was not only *his right* but his *duty* to put a negative thereon; which however a Preſident would ſeldom do but in caſes of neceſſity, as he made himſelf ſolely reſponſible; I obſerved that my experience in 40 years ſervice confirmed me in this poſition, that the Preſident's name was neceſſary to make an act of Government. My repreſentations had no weight; the matter had been repeatedly agitated, and although I wiſhed it might be left to your Honors deciſion, I came prepared for all probable events; and when, in defiance of every thing I could ſay, my requeſt to leave the matter to the Company, my particular intreaty to Mr. Brooke not to ſign any thing of the kind, Meſſrs. Stratton and Brooke did ſign the order to the Secretary, I deſired to ſee the paper, which being handed to me, I declared I would ſtop the buſineſs in that ſtage, and produced a charge againſt thoſe two Gentlemen for an act ſubverſive of the authority of Government, and tending to introduce anarchy, by ordering the Secretary to ſend inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, which had not been approved and paſſed by the Preſident and Council.

The charge being read, I moved, in purſuance of the ſtanding orders, that when a charge is made againſt any Members of Council, ſuch Members not to have a ſeat, it be recommended to thoſe Gentlemen to withdraw; explaining myſelf, that I did not mean *leaving the room*, but that *they ſhould quit their Seats at the Council Table.* Some debate ariſing, and a propoſal having been made to adjourn, ſome of my friends concurred in wiſhing an adjournment, with a view to give the Gentlemen time to anſwer the charge; but they declaring they did not conſider it as a charge, and that it did not deſerve

deſerve any anſwer, after ſome debate, I moved that Meſſrs. Stratton and Brooke ſhould be ſuſpended the Company's ſervice, till your pleaſure ſhall be known, which was accordingly carried in the affirmative by my caſting vote; the Council was then adjourned.

In the evening a ſummons to meet in Council next morning was ſent round to Claud Ruſſell, Eſq. Sir Robert Fletcher, Alexander Dalrymple, Charles Floyer, John Maxwell Stone, Archdale Palmer, Richard Lathom, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Eſquires, who, after the ſuſpenſion Meſſrs. Stratton and Brooke, were the only Members of the Council at this place.

On Friday the 23d Auguſt ſome of the Members, inſtead of attending Council, ſent a Notary Public with the following Letter:

To the Right Honorable Lord Pigot, Preſident, &c.

Claud Ruſſell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone, Eſquires, of Council at Fort St. George.

" MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

" WE whoſe names are underwritten, being of Council, and conſtitu-
" ting a Majority hereof, taking into our moſt ſerious conſideration the
" proceedings upon record at the two laſt meetings, and more particu-
" larly the unexampled outrage offered to the Conſtitution, and arbitrary
" behaviour towards two of our Members, by an illegal attempt to ſuſpend
" them in order by a trick to get a Majority, are of opinion, that the pub-
" lic ſafety is endangered by the conduct of Lord Pigot, and you Gen-
" tlemen who have ſupported, and by every perſon who ſhall continue to
" ſupport ſuch meaſures, and we ſhall hold you therefore reſponſible for all
" the conſequences that may enſue. We, the Majority of the Board, do con-
" ſider

" ſider ourſelves as the only legal Repreſentatives of the Honorable Com-
" pany under this Preſidency, and as ſuch we have no doubt but that all
" the Servants of the Company will regard us.

" For theſe reaſons, and the evident illegality of the ſummons to Council
" for this morning, in which are omitted the names of Mr. George Strat-
" ton and Mr. Henry Brooke, two legal Members of the Board, we
" cannot conſiſtently with the duty we owe to our Honorable Employers
" attend the ſaid Summons.

" We are,

" My Lord, and Gentlemen,

" Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

" (Signed) by GEORGE STRATTON,
ROBERT FLETCHER,
HENRY BROOKE,
CHARLES FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
FRANCIS JOURDAN,
GEORGE MACKAY."

Willing to give them time to reflect, when this Letter was read in Council, no meaſure was taken thereon. It was intended again to ſummon the Members who were not ſuſpended on Monday, by which time it was thought ſome of them at leaſt would be ſenſible of the impropriety of their behaviour and make ſuch acknowledgment as was becoming on the occaſion; however they were undeſerving of this lenity. They ſent for Charles Bromley, a Notary Public, to Sir Robert Fletcher's houſe, and ordered him to circulate Copies of the foregoing Letter about town, and among other perſons to Sir Edward Hughes, the Commanders of the Company's ſhips, the Secretaries, the Town-Major, the Officer of the Main-guard, &c.

Many of theſe Letters were produced in Council, which was again aſſembled after dinner, and the Notary Public being ſent for avowed his having circulated thoſe Letters by the particular orders of Mr. Stratton and the other Gentlemen whoſe names were thereto. This act of ſedition could not be paſſed over; Sir Robert Fletcher was ordered into arreſt, Colonel Stuart appointed to the command of the troops, and Meſſ. Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, were ſuſpended the Company's ſervice until your pleaſure ſhall be known.

I ſent for Colonel Stuart, who came to me, and, having acknowledged our authority, ſupped with me at the Fort-houſe, as I did not think it prudent to go out of the garriſon to ſupper under ſuch circumſtances.

In the morning early Colonel Stuart ſent his nephew, Mr. Baſil Cochran, to me, to know whether I breakfaſted in the Fort or at the Garden-houſe, that he might wait on me for my commands; I replied, that I would do either, as was moſt agreeable to Colonel Stuart; Mr. Cochran returned with an anſwer, that Colonel Stuart would wait upon me at the Garden-houſe if agreeable to me: In my way thither I ſtopt my chaiſe at Colonel Stuart's door, when he told me he had appointed Colonel Edington to meet him at the drill, and would be at the Garden-houſe in about an hour.

He accordingly came thither to breakfaſt, and acquainted me at the breakfaſt-table that the men were very perfect in their new diſcipline, and he hoped ſoon to be able to ſhew them to me.

After breakfaſt he told me, if I would give him leave, he would dine with me, and gave me the following letter:

" Fort St. George, 24th Auguſt 1776.
" Saturday Morning, 7 o'Clock.

" *The Right Honorable Lord Pigot*, &c.

" MY LORD,

" AS I am very imperfectly informed of the ſteps which have led to " the honor conferred upon me yeſterday, and not thinking myſelf entitled " to a ſeat in Council as matters are at preſent circumſtanced, I hope " it will be agreeable to your Lordſhip to allow me this day to peruſe " the Conſultations, and other papers paſſed in Council, on occaſion of " theſe unhappy differences. I doubt not but your Lordſhip will find " this requeſt reaſonable, becauſe the practice of the ſervice gives ſuch in- " formation to the perſon commanding the forces from his ſeat in Council.

" I do not deſire to put your Lordſhip to the trouble of ordering copies " for my uſe, the Secretary need only point out to me what is neceſſary for " my information; for I wiſh to act from information, ſo as to do my duty " to my Honorable Employers, according to my oath of fidelity, for the " public ſervice, and with honor to myſelf.

" I truſt therefore your Lordſhip will be pleaſed to agree to this requeſt " before I am called upon to execute any public act by authority.

" I have the honor to be moſt reſpectfully,
" My Lord,
" Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient and
" moſt humble Servant,
" JAMES STUART."

I told Colonel Stuart I had not the ſmalleſt objection to his and the whole world having every information; that his not having a ſeat in Council required that civility the more; but that I never could condeſcend to any meaſure

meaſure that looked like making a bargain with an officer: Colonel Stuart ſaid, it reſted entirely with me to ſatisfy him or not; it was his duty to obey. I afterwards ſhewed the Letter to Mr. Ruſſell and Mr. Dalrymple, who thought it had a very deſigning appearance. I obſerved to them, it was proper to ſhew him the Commiſſion of Government and ſtanding orders, and on our going to town ordered the Secretary to get them and the Conſultations of 1690 on the table in the Conſultation room, expecting Colonel Stuart would come there, but he did not. When I went to the Admiralty Houſe to dinner I found Colonel Stuart; he ſaid he remained at home all morning in expectation of being ſent for: I told him there had been a miſtake, as I expected him at the Fort-houſe. After dinner I invited him to ſupper at the Company's Garden-houſe, which invitation he accepted, and at the ſame time acquainting me that he had no conveyance, requeſted I would take him with me in my chaiſe, and I appointed him to come to me at ſix o'clock in the Fort-houſe, giving him my watch to ſhew the hour, his own being out of order.

I that afternoon deſired the Gentlemen of Council to meet me in the Fort-houſe, as Sir Robert Fletcher's ſucceſſor was ordered to have a ſeat and voice in Council and Committees, when military affairs were under deliberation, in the ſame manner as at Bombay. I thought it would be handſome to let Colonel Stuart have an occaſional ſeat in like manner during his acting as Commander in Chief. I wrote a note to Colonel Stuart, reciting the ſubſtance of your orders, and deſiring, if he had copy of the orders to Bombay, he would bring it, as it was my wiſh to make every thing agreeable to him.

Some of the Council differing in ſentiment from me, on the ſubject of Colonel Stuart's having a ſeat, it was agreed in my apartment that we would not have a regular conſultation in form, but merely a meeting without taking places or ſhutting the door. Colonel Stuart had not a copy of the Orders to Bombay, but gave me a Letter, declaring that he had received aſſurances that he was intended to have a conſtant ſeat in Council in the ſame manner as Sir Robert Fletcher;

Fletcher ; this not being a matter to be at that time diſcuſſed little was ſaid upon the ſubject. He was ſhewn the Commiſſion of Government ; he ſaid he wanted to ſee all the proceedings, that he might judge as an *honeſt man* and a *free agent* ; it was replied by one of the Council, that this doctrine of a military officer being a free agent, and entitled to know on what grounds orders were iſſued, could not be admitted ; that a military officer was bound to obey the legal orders he received from the proper authority iſſued in due form, and had no claim to know whether thoſe orders were for good reaſons or not ; at the ſame time that no information would be denied to him or to any man in the Settlement, for that the more public theſe matters were made the better ; and that probably, if the application had been made *verbally* inſtead of by *Letter*, no difficulty would have been made to ſhewing him the whole proceedings. He made a lame excuſe for writing, ſaying that he thought it was beſt to have every thing on paper ; which admitted would have debarred his urging any thing in converſation.

Colonel Stuart ſaid he had been miſunderſtood ; that he did not mean diſputing the authority, but only wanted information for his private ſatisfaction. Mr. Ruſſell aſked, if he had accepted the command agreeable to the orders of the Preſident and Council the preceding evening ? He replied *certainly*, for he had accepted the ſalutes and done all other things belonging to the office. He then ſaid he was ready to do what we thought proper, and aſked me what he was to do ; I deſired him to iſſue the general orders of Sir Robert Fletcher's being under arreſt to all the out-garriſons ; he pleaded earneſtly to delay it till morning, but when the neceſſity of it was urged, to quiet the minds of officers who might have received the circular Letter from the Notary Public, he declared, *upon his honor*, that if we would detain the Tappies he would iſſue them that night ; the Tappies were accordingly ordered to be detained, and the Secretary promiſed to ſend ſome aſſiſtants to the Adjutant-General for the quicker diſpatch of thoſe orders.

Between ſeven and eight o'clock at night I went from the Fort-houſe with Colonel Stuart to my chaiſe ; between the two bridges I ſaw Lieu-

tenant-Colonel Edington, the Adjutant-General, come running aſlant the road from the ſouth-ſide towards the chaiſe; ſuppoſing he wanted to ſpeak to us, I reined in the horſes, and Colonel Edington, when he got near their heads waved his drawn ſword and cried *Seapoys!* whereupon a party of Seapoys came from behind the trees on the other ſide towards the chaiſe, and Captain Lyſaught, with a piſtol in his hand, came up from that ſide, and ſaid to me, "I was his priſoner," or words to that effect; and then Colonel Stuart ſeized hold of my arm, and ſaid, "Go, Sir," or "Go out, Sir," and an orderly ſerjeant drove away the ſervant who was behind the chaiſe with my ſword: I was then conducted to Mr. Benfield's poſt-chaiſe; Captain Lyſaught opened the chaiſe door, and an orderly ſerjeant came out of it; I was then told to get into it, and Captain Lyſaught came in alſo; there was an orderly ſerjeant behind the chaiſe, and Captain Lyſaught kept the piſtol in his hand. As we paſſed the Seapoy-guard at the Company's Garden-houſe, Captain Lyſaught ſaid, "My Lord, you muſt on no account call "out," or words to that effect; I had made no ſuch attempt, nor did I then.

When we arrived near to the Long Tank, about three miles from town, he told me that he was carrying me to the Mount, to deliver me into charge of Major Horne, and that he acted under Colonel Stuart's orders. About this time he let down the blinds of the chaiſe. I expreſſed my fears for the ſafety of the people in the town, to which Captain Lyſaught replied, he believed Colonel Stuart had taken every neceſſary precaution.

My ſervants inform me Colonel Stuart returned to town in my chaiſe, and I underſtand ſoon after Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, &c. went thither; they proceeded to the Conſultation-Room, and Colonel Stuart proclaimed them on the parade as Governor and Council.

I beg leave to refer your Honors attention to a part of the General Letter, the draft of which I laid before the Council on the 19th Auguſt, to a

Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher, accompanying one from Colonel Stuart concerning the half-batta; this letter of Sir Robert's was, I have no doubt, intended to caſt an odium upon me for that meaſure, which I thought my duty to you required, and to throw out a bait to the army. The half-batta has been reſtored, and a gratification promiſed to the ſoldiers, as in the following General Orders iſſued on Sunday the 25th.

" The Preſident and Council being, upon the report of Colonel Stuart, " thoroughly ſatisfied with the conduct of the officers and men compoſing " this garriſon, have empowered him to aſſure them they ſhall meet " with a proper gratification."

Another circumſtance in Sir Robert Fletcher's Letter was his recommendation to remove all the Europeans out of garriſon, by which means having, as the event of Saturday the 24th has ſhewn, won over the Commandants of the two battalions of Seapoys doing duty here, viz. Lieutenant-Colonel Edington and Captain Barclay, the garriſon would have always remained at his mercy.

The extraordinary events of that night were ſo unexpected, that no one but thoſe in the plot were prepared for them. I have recommended to all my friends, both civil and military, to be paſſive on the occaſion, as it would be a much greater injury to your intereſts to have the calamities of a civil war, than the temporary diſtreſs ariſing from the preſent confuſion.

I herewith tranſmit to your Honors the General Orders iſſued by Meſſ. Stratton, &c. in Garriſon the 25th, their Circular Letter, with their Proclamation the 27th, Colonel Stuart's Orders to Major Horne by Captain Lyſaught, which are the only orders he is permitted to give me copy of; although I muſt take notice, that in a ſubſequent Order, ſigned George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, is the following paragraph:

As

" As your laſt reſource, in any attempt to reſcue Lord Pigot, his life " muſt anſwer for it, and this you will ſignify to him."

I remained in confinement at the Mount from Saturday night, the 24th, to Tueſday the 27th, when between eleven and twelve o'clock at night Colonel Edington arrived with freſh orders for my removal; I will leave other men to ſay how patiently I bore my confinement, and with what propriety I conducted myſelf upon Colonel Edington's refuſing to ſhew his orders, or to make known to me whither he was to conduct me; I thought it neceſſary to declare, that I would not truſt myſelf with a traitor who had made me a priſoner, and that I would reſiſt while life remained in me. Major Horne's prudence and Colonel Edington's reflection ſtopped this violence proceeding further; and receiving a viſit from Sir Edward Hughes in the morning, I thought it prudent to demand the protection of the King's flag, and Sir Edward Hughes has in conſequence demanded a ſafe conduct for me to his ſhip; but underſtanding from Sir Edward that he could get no reply to this demand, I applied to the Mayor's Court for a writ of Habeas Corpus.

Mr. Ruſſell, Mr. Dalrymple, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Lathom, have given me all the aid and aſſiſtance in their power; they are not deprived of their liberty, but it would be contrary to the orders given to the officer in whoſe cuſtody I am were they to ſign this Letter. I am,

Honorable,

Your moſt faithful humble Servant,

St. Thomas's Mount, near Fort St. George, 3d September 1776.

(Signed) PIGOT.

Extracts

Extracts of Lord Pigot's Letter to the Honorable the Court of Directors per Grenville, dated 26th Sept. 1776.

Par. 1. Encloſed are copies of the draft of a General Letter I laid before the Council, to be ſent to England on the Grenville, and of the Letter I wrote your Honours via Bombay the 3d of this Month; together with ſuch other papers as I think will explain the ſituation of your affairs here.

2. Perhaps I may have been leſs apprehenſive of the Nabob's oppoſing what I recommended to be for your intereſt than I ought; yet I am ſtill convinced that the Company had nothing to fear from him, if men in high office had been faithful to their truſts. My rule has ever been, to conduct myſelf towards the Nabob in the manner moſt acceptable to him, conſiſtently with your intereſt; but that your buſineſs muſt be done. He has not only been encouraged by Members of the Council here, but he has been flattered by the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, in ideas of independency very contrary to the tenour of your inſtructions: this is a matter which requires your ſerious attention.

3. I think it neceſſary to remark to your Honors, that I have applied through Major Horne for copies of all the proceedings of the preſent Adminiſtration, that may any ways relate to me or my meaſures, and alſo for their Letters to your Honors, but they have not ſent them.

4. Major Horne on the 17th inſtant was ordered to communicate to me a copy of a Letter from Mr. Benfield to Meſſieurs Stratton, &c. dated the 8th, with their anſwer dated the 17th. Mr. Benfield ſays he has arrived at the knowledge "of certain tranſactions of mine, ſuch as obtaining very "large ſums of money, &c. from Indian Princes, which conſtitute me "guilty of infringement of the late act of Parliament; and declares his "reſolution to commence a proſecution againſt me, for which he ſhall have "occaſion to apply to the Board, to obtain certain evidences reſiding

" within the bounds of Tanjore, or in places belonging to the Nabob of " the Carnatic." I ſhall leave to the iſſue of the proſecution the proof of the malevolence of this charge: I muſt however take notice, that although this gentleman has been induſtrious for many months paſt in propagating his intentions, he has reſerved to the eve of the diſpatch the bringing forth his accuſations, that they may go home unrefuted; but I truſt you have that confidence in me, as to be perſuaded that my conduct has been ſtrictly honorable; and that you will believe me when I aſſure you I have received no ſum of money; and the only preſents of any conſiderable value, are:

From the Nabob ſoon after my arrival,
A ſet of breakfaſt gold plate,
A coach and a pair of mares,
A ſaddle horſe,
Three chaiſe horſes,
Two cows and a bull.

From a northern Rajah's Vackeel,
An elephant, for which I gave an horſe in return.

5. In my Letter of 3d Sept. I acquainted you, that I had applied to the Mayor's Court for a writ of Habeas Corpus, but without ſucceſs; I cannot however avoid tranſmitting to you the diſſent of Mr. George Smith, one of the Aldermen; and as this is not the only inſtance he has given me of his zeal for the Company's intereſt, I beg leave to recommend him to you as a gentleman well meriting your favour.

6. Permit me to recommend to you the ſon of Mr. Thomas Powney, a youth now in England, and to hope that the long and faithful ſervices of his uncle Mr. Henry Powney may induce you to appoint him a Writer upon this Eſtabliſhment.

7. (Concerning Mr. Randall.)

8. (Concerning Captain Wood, Town-Major, who goes home with his Lordſhip's diſpatches per Grenville, &c.)

9. (About the Swallow going to Suez, and having deſired Mr. D. to proceed that way to England.) I am,

Honorable,

Your faithful humble ſervant,

St. Thomas's Mount,
26th Sept. 1776.

(Signed) PIGOT.

From Lord Pigot, dated 9th October 1776; received over-land the 7th of April 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies.

Honorable,

I WROTE a ſhort Letter by l'Etoille, a French frigate, under date the 6th inſtant, to encloſe duplicate of the papers tranſmitted to your Honors by the Grenville, and I then acquainted you, that private Letters from Bengal mentioned that your Governor-General and Council had received information of what has lately paſſed here; I have ſince then received a Letter from them, a copy of which I have the honor to encloſe to you.

In the Letter I addreſſed to you by the Grenville I informed you, that Mr. Ruſſell and Mr. Stone had joined me in a requeſt to Mr. Dalrymple, that he would proceed to Suez in his Majeſty's ſloop the Swallow, and from thence to England, that your Honors might have the moſt perfect and earlieſt account of the ſituation of your affairs here. That gentleman will have the honor to deliver you this.

The 30th September I addreſſed a Letter to Sir Edward Hughes upon the ſubject of the Criminal Courts, and the 7th inſtant I wrote another relating to Sir Robert Fletcher; both theſe are in this packet for your information, together with the Conſultations the 23d Auguſt.

I am,

Honorable,

Your faithful humble Servant,

St. Thomas's Mount,
9th October 1776.

(Signed) PIGOT.

Copy of Letter from Bengal.

To the Right Honorable George Lord Pigot.

My Lord,

WE have been honored with your Letter from the Mount, dated 29th Auguſt, by the Triton. We had previouſly received by the Shrewſbury a Letter, dated the 23d, from the Majority of the Council, which impreſſed us with the deepeſt concern for the unhappy exceſſes to which the differences in your Council had then proceeded; and although the terms of their Letter, and of the Proteſt contained in it, gave us reaſon to expect the moſt alarming conſequences, yet we confeſs the account of your confinement filled us with equal anxiety and ſurprize.

Having maturely weighed the ſubject of the reſpective advices before us, our duty obliges us, however reluctantly, to take a part in theſe unhappy contentions, and we wiſh it were poſſible for us to reconcile it to the high eſteem which we bear for your Lordſhip's character, and the extenſive ſervices you have formerly rendered to the Company; but the occaſion is too urgent and critical to admit of ſuſpenſe and indeciſion. We therefore deem it incumbent on us to declare, that the rights and powers of the Governor and Council of any of the Company's Preſidencies are veſted by their

their original conſtitution in the Majority of the Board; that the violence committed by your Lordſhip, in excluding two of the Members of the Council of Fort St. George from their places, was a violation of that conſtitution; that the meaſures taken by the Majority to recover the actual Government, which of right is veſted in them, aroſe from the neceſſity of the caſe, and that we ſhall acknowledge and ſupport the title and authority which they conſequently poſſeſs: in doing this it is ſufficient for us to know that we are ſupporting the legal and conſtitutional Government of the Company, though we are not yet perfectly informed of all the train of facts which have brought the Government of Madraſs into the preſent ſituation.

To remove every poſſibility of a doubt, which your Lordſhip may entertain, that the whole powers of the Government exiſt in a Majority of the Members of the Council, we think it proper to tranſmit you an extract of a General Letter, which we have lately received from the Honorable the Court of Directors by the Lioneſs, wherein you will find their ſentiments very clearly expreſſed.

We ſhould have been happy to have had it in our power, by acting as mediators, to effect a reconciliation between you and the other Members of the Council; and we ſhould have preferred this method, had we not feared that your differences had gone too far to admit of it, and that a want of ſucceſs in promoting that deſirable end might have been attended with conſequences more fatal than any which can reſult from our preſent decided reſolution.

We have thought it proper to acquaint Sir Edward Hughes with the part which we have reſolved to take on this occaſion, that he may act conſiſtently therewith, in caſe the ſituation of the Company's affairs ſhould

be

be ſuch as to make it requiſite for him to take an active part in the deciſions of your government; which we earneſtly hope will never happen. We are,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient humble ſervants,

Fort William,
10th September 1776.

(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS,
J. CLAVERING,
RICHARD BARWELL,
P. FRANCIS.

Copy of a letter from Bengal.

To Commodore Sir Edward Hughes commanding His Majeſty's ſquadron in India.

SIR,

WE obſerve with the deepeſt concern, that the differences which lately ſubſiſted between Lord Pigot and a part of the Council at Fort St. George againſt the Majority of that Council, have been carried to ſuch lengths, that the latter had been compelled to aſſume the government of that Preſidency, and to iſſue orders for his Lordſhip's confinement.

Our duty compelling us, under theſe circumſtances, to take a deciſive part in theſe diviſions, we think it neceſſary to acknowledge and ſupport the Majority of the Members of the Council, in whom the rights and powers of the Government, according to the original conſtitution of all the Company's Preſidencies do really exiſt, for which we have the moſt recent, as well as the moſt incontrovertible authority in the Company's orders juſt received by the Triton; for your ſatisfaction on this ſubject we have judged it proper to ſend you a tranſcript of theſe orders, and to adviſe you of the reſolution which we have taken on the preſent occaſion, to which they o

 pointedly

pointedly apply, requeſting that you will unite with us in affording your aſſiſtance and ſupport to the actual Government of Madraſs, if any change of circumſtance ſhould render it neceſſary for them to deſire it.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

Fort William,
10th September 1776.

(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS,
J. CLAVERING,
RICHARD BARWELL,
P. FRANCIS.

N.B. Lord Pigot, on the 22d Auguſt, the day on which Meſſrs. Stratton and Brooke were ſuſpended, obſerved to the Council that his own experience in 40 years ſervice, and the ancient Records of the Company for 100 years, without deviation, confirmed his poſition, that the Preſident's concurrence was neceſſary to make an act of Government, which was the government of *Preſident and Council*; and aſſured them, if they would admit this claim of his to a negative *till the pleaſure* of the Court of Directors ſhould be known, he would never put that negative (except on on extraordinary occaſions) where the intereſt of the Company was eſſentially at ſtake. Nothing, therefore, can be more unjuſt than to judge of the propriety of his Lordſhip's conduct, by referring to a paragraph which he had not ſeen in a Letter of the Court of Directors to Bengal expreſſing their ſentiments; at the ſame time it muſt be remarked, the *original Conſtitution* can *only* be determined by *ancient Records*, which do not afford one order or one inſtance to ſhew that the *original* conſtitution was ſuch as they declare.

Draught

Draught of General Letter intended per Grenville, laid before the Board the 9th of Auguſt 1776, referred to in Lord Pigot's letter of the 3d September 1776, received in Mr. Dalrymple's packet the 7th of April 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England, trading to the Eaſt Indies.

Honorable,

ON the 25th March the Preſident propoſed, with the approbation of the Board, to proceed himſelf to Tanjore to carry your orders into effect, by placing the Rajah in the full poſſeſſion and management of the country, judging from a letter received from the Nabob the 22d, that he would not give his conſent to our carrying them into execution. Conſ. 25th March. 22d.

The ſafety of Tanjore, and the ſecurity of the Rajah and his family appearing to make it neceſſary, not only that an Engliſh garriſon ſhould be in the fort, but that the country alſo be protected by the Company's troops; "It was reſolved therefore to ſend another Battalion of Seapoys to the "ſouthward, the better to enable the Rajah of Tanjore to collect in his "Revenues, if this meaſure proved agreeable to him." 25th.

The ſafety of the Carnatic depends upon a well diſciplined force, regularly paid, being kept up; the particular ſafety and quiet of every individual ſeems to require that no other force ſhould be kept up; and theſe conſiderations induced the Board to wiſh, that the Rajah of Tanjore might join them in their endeavours to place the country in this ſituation.

The Preſident then moved the following queſtion:

"Whether it is proper and neceſſary for him to go to Tanjore for the "reaſons ſet forth in his Minute?"

Agreed *unanimouſly* in the *affirmative*.

The Preſident then moved, that " He might take with him to Tanjore " whatever ſervants of the Company he choſe, either civil or military."

To this Mr. Mackay and Mr. Jourdan diſſented; Sir Robert Fletcher excepted to Members of the Council; the other Members affirmed the Motion.

The Commiſſion of Government was then read, and it was thereupon reſolved, " That in virtue of that Commiſſion of Government, the Go- " vernor holds the *ſame authority*, when *preſent* in any Fort, Factory, or " Settlement under this Preſidency, that he does when preſent in Fort " St. George."

Mr. Mackay, Mr. Jourdan, and Sir Robert Fletcher diſſented.

It was then reſolved (*nem. con.*) " That ſuch a guard as the Governor " thinks neceſſary ſhall attend him."

Sir Robert Fletcher then moved, " That at leaſt *two* Members of the " Council be *joined* with the Preſident in a deputation."

This was carried in the negative 7 to 4. For the arguments on both ſides of the queſtion in theſe ſeveral matters where there were differences of opinion, we beg leave to refer your Honors to the Minutes of the above-named Members, and to Mr. Dalrymple's Remarks on thoſe Minutes.

Conſ. 29th March. On 29th March the Preſident informed the Board in purſuance of their reſolution, empowering him to take with him to Tanjore ſuch ſervants as he thought proper, he meant to take Mr. Dalrymple, Mr. Jourdan, Mr. Chambers as Interpreter, and Captain Wood.

The Preſident and theſe gentlemen ſet out the 30th March, and returned the 5th May.

On

On the 13th May the Preſident addreſſed the Board on the ſubject of his expedition in the manner following: 13th May.

"Having executed the Commiſſion which you did me the honor to "entruſt to me, I now lay before you a Diary, with the Letters and other "Papers which I have thought it neceſſary to take notice of, and which "have not already been laid before you.

"The ſentiments expreſſed in the General Letter to the Court of "Directors per Ankerwyke, with the unanimous concurrence of the "Board at that time, as well as in Conſultation the 25th March laſt, ſo "clearly declare the expediency, not to ſay neceſſity, of having the whole "military force in the Carnatic under the Company, and paid by them, "that it gave me much ſatisfaction to find the Rajah of Tanjore very "heartily concurred in the *wiſh* of the Board (Conſ. 25th March) that the "Rajah might join them in their endeavours to place the Carnatic in ſuch a "ſituation, that no other force ſhould be kept up but a *well diſciplined* "*force* regularly paid, and being ſenſible of the advantage of having his "country thus protected by the Company, he requeſted their aſſiſtance "to that effect, and offered to make an aſſignment of 400,000 Pa-"godas per annum for that purpoſe; to be paid in—

"November	20,000
"December	40,000
"January	40,000
"February	100,000
"March	100,000
"April	100,000
	400,000

"From April to October the country yields but little, that being the "time for cultivation and repairs of Tanks, &c. The ſum here ſtipulated "will afford not only a ſufficiency for defraying the troops neceſſary for

" the protection of the Tanjore country, but will alſo leave a balance,
" I hope, adequate to our military expenſes not paid by the Nabob; and
" I have the Rajah's aſſurances that this ſum is conſiderably leſs than what
" his military force uſually coſt him; ſo that under this head our wiſhes
" are completed."

" The conduct of the Nabob put it out of my power to take any mea-
" ſures to perſuade the Rajah to unite in promoting the other part of our
" plan, concerning the troops at preſent in his Highneſs's ſervice; indeed
" the Tanjore country is not in a condition to be burthened with any extra-
" ordinary charge at this time.

" Having ſettled the moſt eſſential matters with the Rajah, I thought
" it moſt proper, before my departure, to place the military where they
" would be beſt able to anſwer the purpoſes intended, and where the
" Gentoos would be the leaſt interrupted in their cuſtoms and ceremonies,
" and in that ſituation which would bear the leaſt appearance of the Rajah
" being under conſtraint, ſo that he might be able to govern his ſubjects
" with the fulleſt authority. The upper Fort was very happily ſituated for
" theſe purpoſes: Major Stevens the Engineer is of opinion it may be
" converted into a Citadel at an eaſy expenſe; a ſmall garriſon will
" defend it, having a moſt excellent wet ditch and no out-works, and it
" will command the larger fortified town very effectually. This meaſure
" gave the Rajah the greateſt ſatisfaction, as it ſeparated the troops from
" his people; and the houſes in this Fort being nearly deſtroyed, the few
" inhabitants remaining had the Rajah's orders to remove, that the Eng-
" liſh troops might be the better accommodated. The conveniences being
" too few for the whole force then there, I ordered the Hoſpital to be
" removed to Vellum, and all the Europeans back to Trichinopoly,
" except three companies with their officers complete, and one non-com-
" miſſioned officer, and twelve artillery-men; no time was to be loſt
" in doing this, or I ſhould have communicated it to you before it

" was

" was carried into execution. Major Stevens will, I think, have the plan " of this Fort in readineſs to lay before you in a very few days; I indeed " deſired him to conſider it well. At preſent all the expenſe the Company " is put to is in the charge of ſome Coolies to level the mud walls of the " late inhabitants houſes.

" The Revenues collected from the Tanjore country, during the time it " has been in the hands of the Nabob, are, I am informed, as follows:

	Chuckrams.
" 1774	2,900,000
" 1775	5,000,000
" 1776	1,850,000
Total	9,750,000

" Out of this ſum is to be deducted the charge of collection, repairs of " Tanks, &c. the amount whereof in the laſt year was about 600,000 " Chuckrams, ſuppoſing this as a medium; the amount in three years will " be 1,800,000; deducted from 9,750,000 will leave 7,950,000; which " will be nearly the amount of what the Nabob has received from the Tan- " jore revenues clear of all charges and expenſes whatever; an immenſe " ſum—little leſs than 4,000,000 Pagodas. The revenues of this year will " fall greatly ſhort of the uſual amount, occaſioned by the diſtracted ſtate " of the country as repreſented in the following memorandum, which was " annexed to the accounts delivered to me by the Dobbeer, who informed " me that the balance for this year, in grain and money, amounts only to " 550,000 Chuckrams.

" Though the above ſum of 550,000 Chuckrams occurs as a remainder " due from the inhabitants on a general ſtatement of the revenue ac- " counts, yet it cannot be conſidered as a balance which can ever be col- " lected; for the month of April is near at an end, and yet the grain from " various impediments has not been fully reaped, the conſequence of which " has been, that a quantity of rain having fallen, the water ſtands two

" hands

" hands deep in the Paddy fields, and much grain is damaged; no judg-
" ment therefore can be formed of the produce till it is threſhed and
" meaſured. Now the eſtabliſhed cuſtom of the Tanjore country has hither-
" to been, to gather in the harveſt and complete the collections within the
" month of March; but Tunkaws and Towjees having been made out upon
" the country this year to the amount of ſixty Lacks of Chuckrams, the
" inhabitants took the alarm, as conceiving the whole weight of this calamity
" would fall upon them. But this was not their only ſubject of apprehen-
" ſion, for they had received their advances of grain for ſeed and other pur-
" poſes of the Sircar, in the beginning of the year, at the rate of ſeven gold
" Fanams per Cullum, and now, according to the new aſſeſſment, they were
" to account for it with the Sircar again at the rate of only of two-one
" half gold Fanams per Cullum. They were now hard preſſed too for the
" payment of their balances of laſt year, which were calculated not from
" the produce, but from the aſſeſſment of the lands, as farmed out to them
" by the Sircar. The Ameens alſo having rated the lands above their real
" value, were continually forcing the people, by impriſonment and other
" acts of violence, to give them notes for the ſums computed by them (the
" Ameens) to be due, as though they had originally been farmed out to
" them at the rates now impoſed; during which tranſactions they pro-
" hibited the cutting of the grain. Having thus procured theſe notes of
" part of the inhabitants, and reſolving, that if the Rajah ſhould be reſtored
" he ſhould have no balance to collect, they delivered them over to the
" Tunkawdars, the regiments, &c. which increaſed their ſufferings. Such
" were the circumſtances which alarmed the inhabitants, and made them
" elope to Negapatam and the confines of the ſea-port towns, and thus the
" harveſt was delayed till the month of March was over. But Nizaumud
" Deen Ahmed Khan applied himſelf to the appeaſing the inhabitants, and
" diſpatched Cowls with the Cutcherry ſeal affixed into all the Soubahs,
" aſſuring them that the notes which the Ameens had taken from them by
" violence ſhould be returned to them; that the lands ſhould no longer be
" rented to them as farms, but managed as Sircar lands; that their advances
" of grain, and the laſt year's balances, ſhould be accounted for in the ſame
" manner as this year's revenue; and finally, that they ſhould ſuffer no

" longer

" longer from the Tunkawdars and Towjeedars. By this means he recalled the " people, returned them their notes, and ſet the lands on the proper foot- " ing. But ſo great a delay in gathering the harveſt having already taken " place, and a great deal of rain having alſo fallen in that interim, the in- " habitants have of neceſſity ſuffered a conſiderable loſs; and on this account " it is that the above balance cannot be made good."

It was thereupon in Council, " Reſolved, That the requeſt of the Rajah, " not only to garriſon the fort, but to protect the country of Tanjore by the " Company's troops, in conſideration of his paying Pagodas 400,000 " per annum, be complied with." Conf. 13th May.

Sir Robert Fletcher being indiſpoſed then retired, and the Board " ap- " proved of the Preſident's proceedings on his Commiſſion to Tanjore."

Mr. Mackay excepting only the ſeizing the Dobbeer, and the flogging Comera Dubaſh on the public parade.

Mr. Jourdan, Mr. Palmer, and Mr. Stratton, excepting only the ſeizure of the Dobbeer.

For a particular account of this tranſaction, which theſe Gentlemen are pleaſed to call *ſeizing the Dobbeer*, we beg leave to refer your Honors to our Letter to Bengal 13th June. Letter to Bengal 13th June.

We ſhall beg leave to refer your Honors to our Conſultations for the various Letters from Mr. Benfield; but on the 29th of May a Letter having been received from him, complaining againſt your Preſident, " In cauſing grain, " which had been depoſited with him (Mr. Benfield) to be ſeized by the " Company's Seapoys, and in depriving him of the means further to collect " the revenues," the Preſident deſired the Reſolution of Council 25th March might be read, as well as the Orders given, whilſt he was at Tanjore, to the officer commanding the battalion of Seapoys, and the form of an order 29th May.

from him to ſuch officer as he ſhould ſend on detachment; and he thereupon deſired the opinion of the Board as to the propriety of thoſe Orders with reſpect to the Reſolutions of Council 25th March, and the powers veſted in him by the Board to carry the Orders of the Company into execution; upon which it was "Reſolved, That the Orders given by the Pre-"ſident were conformable thereto."

Sir Robert Fletcher objected to the form, alledging that the Orders, ininſtead of going to Captain M'Kenzie immediately, ſhould have paſſed through Lieutenant-Colonel Harper. Every other Member concurred in one opinion.

29th May. It was then Reſolved, To furniſh Mr. Benfield with Copy of the Order given by the Preſident to Captain M'Kenzie, and the form of the Order to his officers on detachment; and to inform him, if his people could point out any officer or Seapoy who has acted improperly, and he will repreſent the particulars of ſuch behaviour to the Board, the neceſſary enquiry ſhall be made into their conduct:" but Mr. Benfield has not given in any ſuch charge.

The Preſident then moved, "That the Rajah of Tanjore being put "in the full poſſeſſion and management of his country by the Company's "expreſs orders, it is the opinion of the Board, that it is not in their "power to comply with Mr. Benfield's requeſts in any reſpect, thoſe claims "on individuals, which bear the appearance of having no connexion with "Government, not being ſufficiently explained to enable the Board to form "an opinion thereon, and the aſſignments of the Nabob not being ad-"miſſible;" which was carried in the affirmative ſix to five. The Preſident in his vote having obſerved, that Mr. Benfield had broke through the ſtand-
3d June. ing Orders of the Company in many inſtances, by his interference with the
1ſt July. country government, ſeveral Members gave in Minutes on this occaſion,
3d June. to which, and to Mr. Dalrymple's remarks thereon, we beg leave to refer your Honors.

On 3d June Mr. Brooke gave in a Minute, requeſting that the above Reſolution might be re-conſidered. 3d June.

On the 6th the Board aſſembled to re-conſider the Reſolution of the 29th May, but Mr. Dalrymple repreſenting that he had not been able to diſcuſs perfectly the contents of the ſeveral diſſents, it was agreed by all, but Sir Robert Fletcher, to poſtpone it until the 10th. Conſ. 6th June.

On the 10th Mr. Dalrymple delivered in his Minute, giving a general ſummary of the matter and extracts from your Orders, to which we beg leave to refer your Honors, to Sir Robert Fletcher's Remarks on it, and to Mr. Dalrymple's Reply, alſo to the Minute of the Majority, and to Mr. Dalrymple's Obſervations on that Minute, and alſo to Mr. Floyer's Minute. 10th June. 24th June. 8th July. 17th June. 1ſt July. 14th June.

Mr. Floyer not being ſufficiently informed on the ſubject, the re-conſideration of the Reſolution of 29th May was poſtponed to the 13th June. On that day, 13th June.

The Preſident moved, " That the Reſolution of Council of 29th " ultimo do ſtand confirmed," which was carried in the negative ſeven to five.

Mr. Dalrymple then obſerved to the Board, that Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Mackay having declared they would give an anſwer to his Minute of 10th June, it was impoſſible for him with propriety to give any further opinion till he has ſeen their anſwers.

Mr. Mackay acquainted the Board he had ſome queſtions to move.

On the 14th June the Preſident moved, " That all the claims of Mr. " Benfield are private and not public concerns." 14th June.

Mr.

Mr. Mackay objected to the propriety of the Preſident's Motion, alledging that the meeting this morning was to take ſome Motions he had to make into conſideration, which he thought ought to be conſidered before the Reſolution moved by the Preſident was put to the vote.

The Preſident having explained what he thinks the cuſtom of the ſervice, that the buſineſs introduced by him ſhould be *firſt* conſidered, deſired the ſentiments of the Board, "whether the reſolution propoſed by him, or "the Motions intended by Mr. Mackay, ſhould be firſt taken into conſi- "deration?"

Which was carried for Mr. Mackay's Motion being firſt put, 7 to 5; whereupon Mr. Mackay moved,

1ſt. "That it is the opinion of the Board, that the Nabob had a right to "the Government ſhare of the crop in the Tanjore country, the produce "of grain ſown during the time it was in his poſſeſſion, and that any mort- "gages he may have given on the ſame are good."

The Preſident then obſerved, that the Motion introduced by Mr. Mackay being entirely relative to the ſuppoſed rights of the Nabob, of which he did not think this Board were competent judges, he was of opinion that Mr. Mackay's queſtion could not with any propriety be put, as it might tend to the moſt fatal conſequences; and therefore moved, "That it might not "be put." It was obſerved it muſt tend to raiſe the apprehenſions and alienate the mind of the Rajah, who is at preſent well diſpoſed to the Company, muſt keep up the animoſity between the Nabob and the Rajah, give great offence to the Marattas, who may perhaps be induced to take a part in this diſpute, and involve the Company's affairs on this coaſt in the greateſt diſtreſs, without any *public* motive whatever for running thoſe riſks, as the Rajah has not only readily complied with every requiſition of the Company, but has requeſted the Company to take the entire

protection

protection of the Country. Other objections were made, but in vain. The Majority of 7 to 5 carried this againſt the Preſident, and the ſame Majority carried Mr. Mackay's Motion in the affirmative.

2. "Mr. Mackay then moved, That a Letter be written to the Rajah of "Tanjore, to inform him of the above Reſolution of the Board, and to re- 14th June. "commend to him to give Mr. Benfield all reaſonable aſſiſtance in recover- "ing ſuch debts as appear to be juſtly due to him from the inhabitants, as "well as to reſtore to him the grain of laſt year, which was in the poſſeſ- "ſion of his people, and ſaid to be forcib'y taken from them."

It was urged that this Motion was improper to be put to the vote at that time, becauſe the Preſident's Motion not having been put, it was not determined whether Mr. Benfield's claims are private or public concerns, nor whether Mr. Benfield's concerns are conſiſtent with the Company's orders or not; nor indeed are the claims ſufficiently explained, nor had Mr. Benfield given in any charge in conſequence of the Board's information to him, that no Officer of the Company had any authority to ſeize the property of individuals; and till then, the Board cannot know whether the grain ſaid to be ſeized, was ſeized by the Rajah's Officers or by the Company's, as Mr. Benfield had alledged.

The Preſident therefore propoſed, that inſtead of this Letter to the Rajah, a Letter ſhould be written to the Nabob, to inform him of the reſolution of the Board on Mr. Mackay's firſt queſtion, and to recommend to him to ſend the ſeveral Amuldars and Officers with their accounts into the Tanjore country, that the Dobbeer might be enabled to lay before us a true ſtate of the Nabob's rights to the Government ſhare of the crop in the Tanjore country; the produce of grain ſown during the time it was in his poſſeſſion, that we might form an opinion how far the mortgages or orders he may have given are good.

The Majority 7 to 5 carried this alſo againſt the Preſident, and the ſame Majority carried Mr. Mackay's ſecond Motion.

" Mr. Mackay then moved, That it be further recommended to the " Rajah, to account with Mr. Benfield for the Government ſhare of the " grain in the diſtricts aſſigned to him by the Nabob, and ſaid to be forcibly " taken from his people."

This Motion was alſo carried by the ſame Majority, 7 to 5.

Your Preſident declared againſt the Motion, becauſe diametrically oppoſite to the orders that have been received from the Company by the Grenville, which brought their commands for reſtoring the Rajah, and who therein declare, that they will ſeverely puniſh every military Officer, or Company's Servant, who ſhall in any reſpect interfere in the affairs of the Rajah's Government; becauſe he ſaw clearly that this Reſolution of the Council will authorize Mr. Benfield to ſend Comrah the Dubaſh to tranſact his affairs with the Rajah of Tanjore, who had the inſolence to propoſe to the Rajah the renting of his whole country, and to declare to him that he was ſupported by ſeven Members of Council; and who further told the Rajah, that Lord Pigot would recommend an Engliſh garriſon to be placed in his fort, which he by all means diſſuaded him from admitting; and moreover, becauſe this Comrah told the Rajah, that Lord Pigot would probably adviſe him to depend on the Company for the protection of his country, which he was by no means to comply with, but on the contrary to reply, that he would defend his country in the ſame manner as his father, and that he did not want ſuch aſſiſtance.

After all Mr. Mackay's Motions had been carried in the affirmative,—the Motion firſt propoſed by the Preſident was put, viz. " That all the claims of Mr. Benfield were private and not public concerns."—The opinions of

the ſeven Members on this Motion are ſo ambiguous, that we muſt beg leave to refer your Honors to the opinions themſelves.

The Preſident then acquainted the Board, that he intended to have followed the above Motion with another, viz. "That it appears to this Board, "that Mr. Benfield's tranſactions with the Country Government are contrary "to the expreſs orders of the Company, and that any interference therein "may raiſe apprehenſions in the Rajah of Tanjore, and tend to involve "the Company's affairs on this coaſt; for which reaſon it is reſolved, that "this matter be referred to the Honorable the Court of Directors." But by ſetting aſide his Motion, this mode of ſettling the buſineſs, which muſt at laſt be purſued in reality, was thrown out, and has been productive of infinite inconveniences and diſpute.

On 25th June, taking under conſideration a complaint of the Nabob, that the Company's Seapoys, with the Rajah of Tanjore's people, had ſeized diſtricts not appertaining to the Tanjore country, but wholly to the Great and Little Marawar; theſe complaints were underſtood to relate to Hannamantagoody; and on reference to the Nabob's inſtructions to Mr. Dupre in June 1762, to Mr. Dupre's reply, and to the Rajah's repreſentations 25th March 1771, it appears, that Hannamantagoody was actually in poſſeſſion of the Rajah at the concluſion of the treaty in 1762, and conſequently, according to your orders by the Grenville, that it ſhould be reſtored to the Rajah; upon which it was reſolved, that a Letter be written to the Nabob, telling him, that, agreeable to his deſire, the records had been conſulted with reſpect to Hannamantagoody, and that it was found, by the Nabob's own inſtructions to Mr. Dupre, to have been in poſſeſſion of the Rajah in 1762, and therefore, in purſuance to your Honors commands, it appeared to us that it ought to be reſtored to the Rajah, and we hoped it would appear ſo to him. Conſ. 25th June 1776.

In

In the ſame Letter the Nabob was informed of the Reſolution on Mr. Mackay's firſt Motion the 14th June, on which his Highneſs was beſt judge what information on this matter was neceſſary.

The Majority of ſeven deſired on occaſion of this Letter that it might be minuted, that "they approved thereof only ſo far as it correſponds with the "ſentiments expreſſed by them reſpectively upon theſe ſubjects on the re-"cords."

Conſ. 9th July. On 9th July the Majority gave in a Minute, deſiring Mr. De Souza and Mr. Benfield might be applied to for what information they could give about taking away the accounts from the Tanjore country.

On the 12th they ſeverally delivered in Letters, ſaying that all the Maratta and Perſian accounts had been carried away, but that the Malabar accounts were left in the villages.

On 23d July your Preſident wrote to the Nabob, in reply to a complaint that ſome of his ſervants were ſtill in confinement under the authority of the Rajah, and the Company's people in the Tanjore country; requeſting to know the names of thoſe ſervants, and of the places where they are confined, that he might make the neceſſary enquiry, and write to the Rajah to have them releaſed, if unjuſtly kept in that ſituation.

He reminded his Highneſs, that in the Letter of 25th June he expreſſed a deſire to learn from his Highneſs ſuch information as he might deem neceſſary to give concerning the orders and accounts of the Tanjore Country.

And the Preſident further took notice, that a ſhip of the Company's bound to England was expected daily, and that it would be highly ſatisfactory to your Honors to be informed by that conveyance, that the Rajah had been

been put in poſſeſſion of Hannamantagoody and Arnee by his Highneſs, and that he has been reſtored, conformably to your commands, to the full and entire poſſeſſion of his country as he held it in 1762.

But the Nabob has made no reply on theſe heads.

On 10th Auguſt a Letter was written to the Nabob, acquainting him of the damage done to the Tanjore and Trichinopoly countries by the freſhes, and repreſenting the neceſſity, to both countries, for the ſpeedy repair of the banks of the river; and requeſting that orders might be ſent to ſuffer earth near the village of Kellycott to be taken, and that every aſſiſtance be given by the people in the village of Sandamangalum in procuring reeds, woods, &c. the Rajah paying for the ſame.

On 3d June a Letter was received from Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, encloſing a Letter to him from the Nabob, complaining generally of your Preſident; and particularly that he had threatened to put a guard upon his perſon: to which a Letter was written in anſwer; your Preſident aſſuring us, " that the Nabob had totally miſunderſtood him; that he never had a thought " of placing any guard over him, although he feared, and expreſſed thoſe " fears to the Nabob, that the encouragement his Highneſs gave to Euro- " pean viſitors, and the impediment to public buſineſs, ariſing from the " intrigues carried on by them at his Durbar, would lay him under a ne- " ceſſity to place a guard to bring ſuch perſons to him, that he might be " acquainted with the nature of their buſineſs." Conſ. 3d June.

Your Preſident further declared, " that no wanton indignity to his " Highneſs ever was intended, or ever will be committed by him, although " his ears can never be ſhut to the complaints of the diſtreſſed."

On 6th June Sir Edward Hughes wrote a Letter, that he had ſent copy of the Letter to the Nabob, which he doubted not would produce the deſired effect.

6th June. The Preſident then obſerved, that there was in the Letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes an accuſation of " his having ordered people " in the middle of the night to enter the Nabob's garden, pretending that " he had information of the Nabob's having ordered ſome people to be ill-" treated there." The Preſident added, that he thought moſt of the Members of the Council had been acquainted with the caſe alluded to, and although he had wiſhed for the credit of the Nabob to have taken no public notice thereof, yet for his own vindication it appeared neceſſary to mention it.

Conſ. 6th June. On 10th May he received the following Report from the Head Hircar.

" After the Nabob took the Marawar's country, the Sircar's people " plundered every thing belonging to the ſaid Marawar's managers; among " the reſt one Villayan Chirvacar's houſe was plundered, his daughter re-" mained in the ſaid country very poor.

" One Veerapilla, an enemy to her, told the Nabob, That ſhe was worth " money; upon which he ordered her to be brought under guard to him; " and accordingly ſhe and two more women and about 13 men were brought " to Chepauk, in the Company's bounds, a few days ago; but upon exa-" mining the woman there was no money to be got from her, as was ex-" pected. On this the ſaid enemy told the Nabob, that if he would ſend her " back along with him to the ſaid country, he will put her to torture, " and recover the money. The woman would not go, for fear they will " murder her; but they are forcing her to go, and ſhe declares, that if ſhe " is forced ſhe will kill herſelf. As ſhe is now in the Company's bounds, " ſent to acquaint your Lordſhip with the above violence, and beg you to " ſave her life; and as it is my duty to acquaint you with any news or vio-" lence that might be committed in the bounds, I thought fit to make this " Report to your Lordſhip."

The

The Preſident was upon a viſit, and at ſupper, when he received this information; and as the Nabob's gardens and thoſe to the Company's houſe join, he ordered the Hircar to wait at the gardens till his return, and to watch if thoſe people paſſed. About 11 o'clock the Preſident, ſtopping at the gardens in his way to the Fort, was informed that the woman was not come away, but that ſome of the people were carried off towards St. Thomé; upon which the Preſident thought proper to direct the officer of the guard to ſend a Havildar and ſome Seapoys, who overtook them at St. Thomé; and the Preſident at the ſame time gave to Saib, one of the Company's waiting Peons, the written information he had received, and directed him to carry it to a houſe of the Nabob's where many of his ſervants generally are, and to deſire that the woman might not be removed till he ſaw the Nabob in the morning.

In the morning the men and old woman were ſent to the Nabob, who enquired into the matter in preſence of Mr. Chambers, and then ſet them at liberty, and likewiſe the daughter of the Duan; and got a girl of the Marawa family, who Veeriapermall had taken and uſed as his concubine, to be reſtored, and gave orders for another at Trichinopoly likewiſe to be reſtored.

On 17th June the Preſident moved the following Reſolution: "It is "the opinion of this Board, that the Letter from the Nabob to Sir "Edward Hughes was written purpoſely to create animoſity between the "Members of this Government." Conſ. 17th June.

He obſerved, that he would not willingly think ſo unfavourably of the Nabob, as to believe him capable of repreſenting fears when he had none; but when the Preſident ſees the Nabob's name ſigned to an Engliſh Letter, of which he cannot read one word, when he knows the miſcreants that he has in his Councils, he ſhould not have been ſurprized to have found that Letter accuſe him of any faults. The Preſident obſerved alſo, that the

Nabob's

Nabob's Letter to Sir Edward Hughes was not ſent until a week after the viſit he had the honor to make his Highneſs, and in the intervening time that he had received a viſit from the two eldeſt Sons, with a meſſage of compliments from their Father.

The queſtion was carried in the affirmative by the Preſident's caſting vote.

The Preſident then gave in the following Minute:

"After ſuch a Letter as that written by the Nabob to Sir Edward "Hughes, and after the ſentiments of the Preſident expreſſed in the Re- "ply to Sir Edward Hughes, as well as what paſſed in debate upon the "ſubject, the Preſident does hope the impropriety, nay indecency, of viſit- "ing the Nabob under ſuch circumſtances muſt ſtrike every Member of "Council.

"The Preſident recommends, that, agreeable to the Company's ſtanding "orders, no Member of the Council do henceforth viſit or correſpond by "writing or by meſſage with the Nabob or either of his Sons.

"The Preſident is more particularly induced to recommend this, as he "is informed that the Nabob has been made acquainted with the late pro- "ceedings of this Board; and he thinks it very improper any Member of "the Council ſhould be liable to the ſlighteſt ſuſpicion of divulging to the "Nabob the proceedings of Government."

6th November 1769. 3d Apr. 1775. General Letter from Bengal 7th December 1775. 17th June 1776.

This queſtion was carried in the affirmative alſo by the Preſident's caſting vote. For the various opinions of the Members we beg leave to refer you to the Minutes.

The Preſident then repreſented to the Board the many difficulties that attend the conſtant reſidence of the Nabob within the Company's bounds, from the frequent acts committed, which are incompatible with our laws.

"In-

" Inſtances of murder, impriſonments, thefts, tortures, and ſuch-like " offences, committed by the Nabob's people, wherein the interference of " this Government is indiſpenſably neceſſary, have already happened in " the ſhort time the Preſident has been here; and he ſhould ill deſerve " the truſt repoſed in him if he let informations of ſuch a nature paſs un- " noticed; and, if he is not paſſive, the Nabob will ever think his dig- " nity hurt.

" Another inconvenience ariſes from the ſuits in the Mayor's Court " againſt the Nabobs's family and attendants, which occaſion applications " that muſt lay the Preſident under the greateſt embaraſſments.

" The Nabob has not mentioned it in his Letter to Sir Edward Hughes, " but the Preſident knows he was moſt chagrined at the Preſident's " having releaſed ſome children ſtolen by a Moorman, formerly, if not at " preſent, in the Nabob's ſervice, and who was ſtopped in the Company's " bounds, but conveyed away by the Nabob's officers into his Highneſs's " country, and thereby has eluded the juſtice of the Engliſh laws. Of " theſe children nineteen were taken from the Tanjore country, one from " St. Thomé, and two from Cuddalore.

" The Preſident being deſirous to avoid every occaſion of giving diſguſt " to the Nabob, and as circumſtances muſt occur daily to increaſe his diſ- " content while he remains here, the Preſident propoſes, as the moſt effec- " tual method to prevent theſe miſunderſtandings, " That it be recom- " to the Nabob to reſide at Arcot."

This queſtion was carried againſt the Preſident ſeven to five. It was ſaid the Nabob's reſidence here is attended with great advantages to the Company and to the Settlement, and that ſuch a Motion would increaſe the jealouſies already ſubſiſting; on the other hand it was alledged, that Durbar politics had been almoſt the ſource of the diſſenſions that of late

years have prevailed at this Board, and will ever be ſo while the Nabob reſides among us. It was thought this meaſure, inſtead of increaſing, would naturally put an end to all animoſity between the Company's Government and the Nabob; would not only obviate all the difficulties complained of, but be extremely beneficial to his country, which is in a very miſerable ſtate.

24th June. On the 24th June ſeveral Minutes were given in on the ſubjects of the former Conſultations, to which we beg leave to refer your Honors.

The boaſted wealth of this Settlement is almoſt entirely confined to the Europeans, and ſhews itſelf in diſſipation and extravagance of every kind, which can never be to the Company's advantage: almoſt none of the natives, except ſuch as have had the handling of the public money, are affluent: there are hardly any Black merchants of ſubſtance; and the Nabob racks the country to ſquander money idly away, which ought to be laid out in the improvement of the Carnatic.

This would be a ſource of real wealth to Madraſs, and in time of exigency might enable him to ſupport his government. In the preſent ſituation, if the calamities of war are to be added to the diſtreſſes of the inhabitants, the moſt fatal conſequences are to be dreaded.

It muſt be obvious, that all the difficulties which have occurred in tranſacting your affairs with the Nabob, not only ſince the arrival of the Grenville, but for ſome years paſt, have ariſen from the Nabob's being infeſted by deſigning men about him, who have had an intereſt of their own directly contrary to your's. Whilſt the Nabob reſides conſtantly here it will be impoſſible to keep all Europeans from him, and he has many means of attaching men to his cauſe within the limitation of the law, even admitting that men ſhould be incapable of being induced to accept offers which your Honors may ſatisfy yourſelves from Mr. Dawſon were made to him.

It

It is very difficult to bring home proofs; nay circumſtances may come to the knowledge of your Preſident through channels which cannot with propriety be made known; but he thinks it proper at this time to ſtate for your information what has come to his knowledge.

The evening your Preſident ſet out for Tanjore, one of the Nabob's family, after many profeſſions of friendſhip, and of a deſire that your Preſident might be convinced of the confidence he repoſed in him, and how much he was perſuaded that no man had the Nabob's intereſt ſo truly at heart as your Preſident, he begged of him to believe that he had uſed every argument to prevail on the Nabob to comply chearfully with the orders of the Company; that the Nabob was in himſelf all goodneſs; that no man could wiſh more for the proſperity of the Company's affairs than the Nabob did, but at the ſame time confeſſed, that giving up the Tanjore country affected him much: "Think not, my Lord," continued he, "that the Nabob upon this occaſion is governed by the advice of "Mr. M'Pherſon, neither believes that he pays much attention to that "of Mr. Mackay; he has a voice in Council it is true, but he thinks "him inſignificant. The Nabob however is a man, and liable to the fail-"ings of a man; and when he is counſelled and told by one in high "office, whoſe ſuperior intereſt and friends have ſupported him in over-"coming men in power in Government heretofore, when he is told by "the Commander in Chief of the army ſitting on your Lordſhip's left "hand at the Council Board, and holding honors and truſts not com-"mitted to the charge of any officer till of late, that your Lordſhip *dare* "not carry the orders of the Company into execution without the Nabob's "conſent: feel for the Nabob at this time, conceiving his honor, repu-"tation, dignity, nay his favorite object at ſtake, that of keeping poſ-"ſeſſion of the country of Tanjore: feel for him, my Lord, and ſay, "if with ſuch encouragement he is not to be excuſed. Follow this with "every mark of attention and profeſſion of friendſhip the ſame gentleman "could give, ſee him producing the Company's private inſtructions to "the Commiſſioners, and reading the 29th, 30th, 31ſt, 32d, 33d, and

" 34th paragraphs, and you will find it no longer difficult to account for
" the Nabob's conduct."

Although the letter referred to had been opened at the particular requeſt of the Commander in Chief a little time before, and carried home by him with your Preſident's permiſſion, yet well knowing the artful and intriguing diſpoſition from whom this information was received, your Preſident looked on it as a bait thrown out to amuſe him, and prevent his ſetting out for Tanjore; and he therefore paid ſo little attention to it, that he got into his Palanqueen, and proceeded on his journey, without ever having read the Letter mentioned, which, on Sir Robert Fletcher's returning it to your Preſident, was left in his cloſet in the Fort-houſe, where it remained till his return from Tanjore, when curioſity led him to deſire Mr. Stratton to read to him the paragraphs which had been referred to.

Your Preſident will not recite the various reports he has heard ſince his return, but he cannot omit ſaying, that he was alſo told, before his journey to the ſouthward, by the ſame perſon of the Nabob's family, that the Commander in Chief had encouraged the Nabob to believe that there would ſoon be a diviſion in the Council, telling him Mr. Dawſon, Mr. Brooke, and Mr. Ruſſell, had all applied to go to Mazulipatam; that your Preſident kept theſe Members in expectation of the Chiefſhip, but that when the office was filled up, the Preſident would certainly diſoblige two of them. And your Preſident muſt ſay, that ſince your Honor's nomination of Mr. Floyer has been known, he has not had the ſupport from Mr. Brooke which he before received from him.

Conſ. 24th June. In Conſultation the 24th June Mr. Mackay gave in the following Minute.'

" As the Reſolution on the Nabob's Letter to Sir Edward Hughes
" was carried by the Preſident's caſting vote, though in Mr. Mackay's
" opinion

' opinion of one of the Members for that queſtion Mr. Brooke appears ' doubtful, Mr. Mackay moves that the Reſolution be now reſcinded."

Sir Robert Fletcher alſo begged leave to repreſent to the Board, " That " he has had the Records examined, and can find *no ſuch ſtanding* order of " the *Company*, as was quoted by the Preſident on Monday laſt (17th of " June) and upon which he imagines *ſome* of the Members of the Board " were induced to vote for his Lordſhip's ſecond Motion; Sir Robert " Fletcher further obſerves, that upon conſidering attentively the words " in which that Motion is conceived, he finds that Members of the Board " may be thought by ſome (though innocently) to offend againſt the Re- " ſolution which paſſed upon that Motion, merely becauſe they do not, " and he thinks cannot, ſhut their doors in the faces of the Nabob and " his ſons, when they happen, which they ſometimes do, to drop in, in an " evening to viſit his family; and as for Sir Robert Fletcher himſelf, he " muſt repeat, that there are frequent complaints made to him from the " out-garriſons of diſputes between the officers under his command, and " the Nabob's officers, and againſt ſome of the Company's officers in the " Nabob's ſervice upon points of duty. Theſe, in conſequence of a " meſſage from the Commander in Chief to the Nabob, or to one of his " ſons, or a meſſage from one of them to the Commander in Chief, are, " in general, amicably *ſettled by him.*

" For all theſe reaſons, Sir Robert hopes the impropriety of the Reſo- " lution on the Preſident's ſecond Motion on Monday laſt, will ſtrike " every Member of the Board, and he therefore moves that that Reſo- " ſoution be reſcinded."

On the 8th July, in conſequence of the Motion of Sir Robert Fletcher of 24th June, being deſired by him to be conſidered, the Preſident obſerved, " That the Reſolution of Council of 17th June, *that Members* of " the *Board ſhould not viſit* or receive meſſages from the *Nabob or his* " *Sons*, was grounded on the reaſons which are given on his Minute pre- Conſ. 8th July.

" ceding that Motion; that it is true he had, at the deſire of Mr. Brooke,
" given his conſent to the reconſideration of the Reſolution of the 29th
" May on the Nabob and Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country,
" becauſe that private property was there concerned; but as no ſuch
" matter was affected by the Reſolution of the 17th June, and becauſe
" the reſcinding ſuch Reſolution would only increaſe the difficulties he
" has found in conducting the buſineſs of the Company with the Nabob,
" he now declares, that he never will give his conſent to the queſtion of
" Sir Robert Fletcher being put. The Preſident at the ſame time ob-
" ſerves to the Board, that he is certain of acting on this occaſion with
" perfect conſiſtency; that during the many years he has been in the ſer-
" vice, he has always known the buſineſs of the Board to originate with the
" Preſident, who is undoubtedly the propereſt perſon to lay before them
" ſuch ſubjects as may require their conſideration; that making Reſolu-
" tions one day, and reconſidering and reſcinding the next, can be pro-
" ductive of no good conſequence to the Company's affairs, but on the
" contrary ſtamp the meaſures of Government with ſuch an air of fickle-
" neſs, as muſt be highly detrimental to them."

Many Members gave in Minutes on the ſubject, to which we beg leave to refer your Honors.

The Preſident then declared, that he was ready to put Mr. Mackay's Motion, as that was a matter which did not concern the Company, but himſelf; however Mr. Mackay declined having it put.

Conſ. 9th July. On 9th July the Majority of ſeven gave in a Minute againſt your Preſident, for firſt, Having *aſſerted* a *right* to *adjourn the Council.* Secondly, Having in the Civil Department *refuſed* to *put* a *previous queſtion*, although deſired by many of the Board, who had not had time to conſider of the propoſition laid before them. Thirdly, Having *refuſed* to *put a queſtion regularly moved* for *reſcinding* a *former Reſolution* of *Council.* And Fourthly, Having

Having aſſerted that a *Reſolution* of *the Majority* of the *Board* cannot be *carried* into *execution* without *his concurrence.*

Your Preſident thinks it proper on this occaſion to obſerve, that he thinks the preſervation of order and propriety in Government makes it neceſſary for the power of adjournment to be in the Preſident, without which a faction with ſtrong conſtitutions, by relieving each other, might force the Preſident, who is obliged to remain in the chair, into whatever meaſures they pleaſed. Were your Preſident to adjourn to evade any charge either againſt himſelf or his friends, there might be ground of complaint, not for the adjournment, but the motive of it; but in tranſacting the important public concerns of your Government, if the Members of the Council, inſtead of aſſiſting your Preſident with their advice, are to aſſume the reins and determine what is fit in their private meetings, and come to Council only to dictate to your Preſident, it is impoſſible for your affairs to eſcape ruin. Your Government muſt be ſupported.

Your Preſident thinks he has a right to require of every Member of the Council an opinion upon ſuch matters as he may lay before them, and therefore, that it is improper to admit of a previous queſtion which may deprive him of that opinion.

The forms and rules of popular aſſemblies are not at all applicable to a Council Board, and if they were introduced, inſtead of promoting buſineſs would impede it, and throw every thing into confuſion. In the inſtance referred to, your Preſident did not require a haſty deciſion; he declared his readineſs to ſit as long as they pleaſed, but was convinced the Members of the Majority merely urged delay becauſe it was ſuppoſed Mr. Dawſon would not attend another Council, and that by poſtponing the buſineſs your Preſident would be deprived of that gentleman's ſupport in a meaſure which appears of infinite conſequence to your affairs, viz. ſending Mr. Ruſſell to Tanjore. Mr. Dawſon, ſeeing the dilemma in which your Preſident was reduced, in a very becoming manner declared,

he

he would not turn his back on our ſervice, and would readily attend on a future day; and your Preſident muſt do Mr. Dawſon the juſtice to ſay, he ever received his ready ſupport in the adminiſtration of your affairs.

3dly. Your Preſident cannot avoid remarking, that when he refuſed to put Sir Robert Fletcher's Motion for reſcinding the Reſolution of Council of 17th June againſt Members of the Council viſiting the Nabob, he took notice that it was almoſt the only queſtion which he would not put, but that the Reſolution was entirely conformable to your orders, to ancient uſage, and neceſſary for good government; that reſcinding the Reſolution would be a breach of your orders, and tend to involve your affairs in difficulties for no reaſon; and that intercourſe with the Country Government was a privilege which you had been pleaſed to veſt in your Preſident ſolely, and therefore was what the Council could not agitate with propriety. However in the Minute above referred to the Majority declare, "The Reſolution of 17th June is legally, though not in the uſual form "reſcinded," which your Preſident cannot admit.

Your Preſident, from an attentive conſideration of the Commiſſion of Government, thinks his Council are appointed the better to enable him to manage your affairs; he thinks he can do nothing without a Majority of his Council, and he thinks ſo great a deference is due to that Majority, as to require the Preſident to concur with them on ordinary occaſions, but not in diſobedience to your commands; on the contrary, he thinks his duty to the Company obliges him not to concur with a ſettled Majority, who uniformly purſue meaſures ruinous to your intereſts, and contrary to your orders.

Encloſure

Enclosure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land the 7th of April 1777.

Measures worthy the attention of the Court of Directors for the re-establishment of good government and order in their Settlement at Madrass.

1. IT is necessary that no room be left to doubt that a Majority of the Council cannot do an act of Government without the President.

2. The new military regulations cannot be continued without total destruction to the Company, as the Government is thereby at the mercy of the military Commander in Chief. The Governor ought to have at least as much power over the military as formerly, when the Company's affairs were conducted so much to the honor of the nation, and to their benefit.

3. All the appointments military as well as civil ought to be in the President and Council at the recommendation of the Governor.

4. It has been questioned whether the President and Council can bring the Military Commander in Chief to a Court-Martial, without calling officers from the other Presidencies to try him? and the authority of the Governor to put him in arrest, even whilst in garrison, is positively denied, notwithstanding the Company's orders are clear on this head; but it is alledged the new regulations have superseded all antecedent orders.

5. One great cause of the confusion in the Company's affairs here, is the Nabob's debt to individuals; the orders he has granted on different districts amount to more than two millions sterling (2,000,000l.) great part of this is due to Europeans for sums lent, and other money transactions, which are contrary to the express orders of the Company; but it is pretended these orders are now superseded by the Act of Parliament:

this ought to be put an effectual ſtop to, and it is to be feared, before any remedy can be applied, the debt will be greatly increaſed; the ſum above-mentioned is not the whole of the Nabob's debt, but only of what he has given orders for payment during the laſt year; thoſe orders are nearly equal to the amount of his annual revenues.

6. The Company very judiciouſly gave orders, that all the Nabob's troops ſhould be diſbanded; it will be neceſſary to repeat this order, as the Governor-General and Council of Bengal ſay he is an independent prince, and have reſolved they will ſupport his rights, by exerting with effect the power veſted in them by the Legiſlature. It is the more neceſſary theſe troops ſhould be diſbanded, as he has at leaſt 150 European officers who have ſtole out to India; and this is a growing evil.

7. Continuing the Jaghier under the Nabob is very prejudicial to the Company's intereſt. It is indeed generally ſuppoſed the Nabob pays a larger Sum than the country is at preſent able to bear; but it can never be the Company's intereſt to diſtreſs the inhabitants, and, under good management, it is very capable of great improvement. If the Jaghier is taken from the Nabob, he will be induced to remove from Madraſs, which will be attended with many good conſequences.

8. The former Regulation in the Company's ſervice, that all intercourſe with the Country Government ſhould be confined to the Preſident, is very neceſſary to be confirmed, as queſtions have ariſen concerning the validity of that Regulation.

9. It is very injurious to the natives to permit Europeans or Chriſtians of any denomination to be concerned in the Farms, and it will alſo be productive of many inconveniences to the Company as well as oppreſſions to the inhabitants.

10. Selling the waſte land belonging to the Company is a meaſure calculated to ſerve private purpoſes at the Company's expenſe; where lands are wanted for occupancy, they ought to be granted at a ſmall quit-rent, with a power of redemption, on paying the fair value of improvements.

Encloſure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777.

Copy of General Orders iſſued the 25th Auguſt 1776.

By George Stratton, Eſq. Preſident, Henry Brooke, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Eſqrs. of Council at Fort St. George.

THE illegal, violent, and unconſtitutional conduct of Lord Pigot, late Preſident of the Council, aided and aſſiſted by Meſſrs. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Stone, in breaking through the poſitive orders of the Company, have compelled us, for the future welfare and preſervation of the affairs of the Company, to order Lord Pigot into arreſt, and to ſuſpend from the Company's ſervice the other three Gentlemen, until the Company's pleaſure ſhall be known; and George Stratton, Eſq. being the next ſenior ſervant to Lord Pigot, is, agreeable to the orders of the Company, appointed Preſident, and is to be obeyed as ſuch; and all the officers and ſoldiers upon this eſtabliſhment are hereby commanded to pay due obedience to our orders; ſigned by ourſelves, or our Secretary, we, the Majority of the Council, being the only legal repreſentatives of the Company.

(Signed) GEO. STRATTON.
HENRY BROOKE,
ROBERT FLETCHER,
CHAS FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
FRANS JOURDAN,
GEO. MACKAY.

The Government having devolved on George Stratton, Eſq. the honors of ſecond of the coaſt are to be paid to Henry Brooke, Eſq

Colonel Stuart is to take upon him the charge and command of the army and of this garriſon during the indiſpoſition of Sir Robert Fletcher, who will, notwithſtanding his illneſs, continue to act as third of Council.

The Preſident and Council being, upon the report of Colonel Stuart, thoroughly ſatisfied with the conduct of the officers and men compoſing the Garriſon, have empowered him to aſſure them they ſhall meet with a *proper gratification.*

Captain Arthur Lyſaught is appointed Town-Major, and Lieutenant Hoare Fort-Adjutant, and are to be obeyed as ſuch. Lieutenant Colonel Nixon is to join the 1ſt Battallion of the 1ſt Regiment at Vellore.

Sunday, Auguſt 25th eight o'clock. A picquet to mount immediately till further orders, conſiſting of 1 Captain, 2 Subalterns, 2 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, and 50 Rank and File, to be warned from thoſe who came laſt off duty.

The officers to wear their laſhes conſtantly, and the men their accoutrements, and to keep their arms as near them as poſſible, that they may be ready to turn out at the ſhorteſt notice. The Drummer to remain always at the Barrack Guard.

No perſon on picquet to go out of the garriſon.

In caſe of an alarm, the picquet to aſſemble in front of the Barracks.

Enclosure

Eyclofure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777.

Letter from Lord Pigot to the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, dated St. Thomas's Mount, 15th September 1776.

To the Honorable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor-General, &c. Council of Bengal.

Honorable Sir and Sirs,

CAPTAIN PANTON, of his Majeſty's ſhip Swallow, having done me the honor to deliver me the Letter which you were pleaſed to addreſs to me and the Council by that ſhip, I am become acquainted with your ſentiments concerning my proceedings at Tanjore, and on my conduct with reſpect to the Nabob.

In the ſituation I am, deprived of all reference to the public records, willing to ſhew all due deference to your opinion, but deſirous at the ſame time to juſtify my conduct to the world, and obſerving that private complaints and private opinions are blended with the public and authentic acts, and circumſtances mentioned which never exiſted, I may ſtand excuſed if I deſire that copies of all the Nabob's complaints may be tranſmitted to me.

Seeing alſo private references made by Sir Robert Fletcher to the opinion of Lieutenant-General Clavering, extracts of whoſe anſwers I underſtand have been handed about the Garriſon by an orderly Serjeant (copy of one of which comes encloſed) I truſt General Clavering will have no objection to lay before your Honor, &c. the correſpondence that has paſſed on public matters between him and the Commander in Chief here,

that I may be furniſhed with authentic copies of ſuch as you may ſee proper.

I have the honor to be,
Honorable Sir and Sirs,
Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

St. Thomas's Mount,
15th September 1776.

(Signed) PIGOT.

Encloſure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777.

Copy of a paper ſaid to be an extract of a Letter to Sir Robert Fletcher from General Clavering.

" THE reaſons for not extending our animadverſions to ſuch matters " as concern your internal government was, 1ſt. That we did not think " our juriſdiction competent to take cognizance of them unleſs, the Majo- " rity of the Board had required it of us; and 2dly, That we thought " you had power within yourſelves to render the Government efficient, on " the Preſident's refuſing to execute any order of the Majority."

" We have here aſſerted and maintained, that the Government is " veſted in the Majority;" and then, ſpeaking of Sir Robert's arreſt, and not ſummoning him to Council during that ſuppoſed arreſt, " By the " ſame rule that the Preſident does not ſummon one, he may confine the " number of the Council to thoſe perſons only who are his creatures and " dependents; but a junto thus formed, is no longer the Council appointed " by the Company as their repreſentatives, and their acts are illegal. " He adds, that putting Sir Robert in arreſt, and upon the pretence " alledged, was the moſt violent act of deſpotiſm he ever heard of."

N. B. The charge given to the Board by the Preſident againſt Sir Robert Fletcher was for diſobedience of orders and infidelity to the Company;

pany; ſome of Sir Robert's friends thereupon requeſted, that the matter might be paſſed over and nothing more ſaid of it; this the Governor more readily aſſented to, as in the courſe of the trial it would have been neceſſary to have called upon the Nabob's ſons, and perhaps upon the Nabob himſelf, as evidences. Meſſrs. Jourdan and Mackay went to Sir Robert, and returned to Council with him, when he ſignified, that he underſtood what had paſſed was to be buried in oblivion, and therefore it was very improper in him to revive the ſubject by mentioning it to General Clavering.

Enclosure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777.

Letter from Mr. Munro to the Court of Directors, dated Fort St. George, 21ſt September 1776.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies.

Honorable,

AT a period of diſtraction and violence, when rebellion has diſplayed her banner in one of your principal ſettlements, and uſurpation has wreſted the reins of Government from the hands you had intruſted them to, an humble appeal againſt arbitrary meaſures, a complaint of the moſt unmerited and injurious treatment towards a civil ſervant of this eſtabliſhment, will be far from being an unnatural conſequence; as thoſe who have eſtabliſhed themſelves by deceit and military force in the adminiſtration of this Government, will have little ſcruple to maintain their authority by violence, and to remove every individual from places of truſt, who may have the ſpirit to deny their power, and fortitude to preſerve his fidelity unimpeached to his Honorable Employers.

On

On the revolution of this Government, I was influenced by the dictates of fidelity and duty to the Honorable Company to ſign my name to a Letter (in conjunction with many of my fellow ſervants, who were actuated by the ſame principles) containing a formal proteſt againſt the authors thereof. This Letter will be ſent a number in the Grenville's packet, and I muſt beg leave to refer your Honors thereto for the motives of my conduct; and I flatter myſelf, that motives adopted by ſo great a majority as thirty-eight of your civil ſervants at the Preſidency, are as little liable to be tainted by error as by prejudice or intereſt. If a Preſident by you elected as worthy of ſo high a truſt, if a commiſſion originating from yourſelves, and endowing the Right Honorable Lord Pigot with a Government, from which, it expreſsly ſays, he is only removeable by thirteen or more of the Directors, can be annulled by a Majority in numbers of the reſiding Members of that Council, which is appointed, by the expreſs words of the commiſſion, to aid and aſſiſt him in the adminiſtration of his Government, and theſe Members (as I apprehend) legally ſuſpended; I muſt confeſs my idea of the ſervice has been totally wrong, and I have been with many of my fellow ſervants under an unhappy miſtake reſpecting the powers and privileges by you delegated to a Governor.

Actuated by theſe ſentiments, I could not conſiſtently addreſs Mr. Stratton by the title he has aſſumed; I could no otherways forward my monthly returns, as paymaſter and ſtorekeeper of Chingleput, than by addreſſing him as "one who ſtyles himſelf Preſident of the Council and "Governor of Fort St. George;" as I regarded the legal Preſident and Governor to be no other than the Right Honorable Lord Pigot. For the indecency and impropriety, as they are pleaſed to term it, of this addreſs, the reigning Adminiſtration have thought fit to order me to deliver over the charge of your money and ſtores, and of my office, to the military officer commanding there, in this inſtance alſo deviating from the line of the ſervice, and to ſuſpend me without giving me any charge of a crime, and far leſs allowing me a reaſonable time to anſwer thereto, or even a copy of the proceedings relative to my ſuſpenſion, though applied for by me

This informant further ſaith, That the ſame Order was, ſome days afterwards, produced to Sir Edward Hughes, the Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's ſhips in India, in preſence of Lord Pigot, the Honorable Edward Monckton, Alexander Dalrymple, and this informant.

Madraſs, 31ſt Auguſt.

Sworn to before me,

(Signed) JOHN TURING, Mayor.

N. B. After it had been ſhewn to Lord Pigot, &c. in Sir Edward Hughes's preſence, I wrote upon a bit of paper the words to the beſt of my recollection, and without ſhewing this to Mr. Ruſſell I deſired him to do the ſame, which he did, and on comparing them we agreed; however Lord Pigot inſiſts that he is very ſure the words are—

" As your laſt reſource, in any attempt to reſcue Lord Pigot, his life " muſt anſwer for it, and this you will ſignify to him."

Encloſure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th of April 1777.

To the Right Honorable Lord Pigot, Preſident, &c. Claud Ruſſell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone, Eſqrs. of Council at Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

WE whoſe names are underwritten, being of Council, and conſtituting a Majority hereof, taking into our moſt ſerious conſideration the proceedings upon record at the two laſt meetings, and more particularly the unexampled outrage offered to the conſtitution, and arbitrary behaviour towards two of our Members, by an illegal attempt to ſuſpend them, in order by a trick to gain a Majority, are of opinion that the public ſafety is in danger by the conduct of Lord Pigot and you gentlemen who have ſupported, and by every perſon who ſhall continue to ſupport ſuch meaſures, and we ſhall hold you therefore reſponſible for all the conſequences that may enſue. We, the Majority of the Board, do conſider ourſelves as the only legal repreſentatives of the Honorable Company under this Preſidency, and as ſuch we have no doubt but all the ſervants of the Company will regard us.

For theſe reaſons, and the evident illegality of the ſummons to C[illegible] this morning, in which are omitted the names of Mr. George Stratton and Mr. Henry Brooke, two legal Members of the Board, we cannot conſiſtently with the duty we owe to our Honorable Employers attend the ſaid ſummons. We are,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

Madraſ, 23d Auguſt 1776.

(Signed) GEORGE STRATTON,
ROBERT FLETCHER,
HENRY BROOKE,
CHARLES FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
FRANCIS JOURDAN,
GEORGE MACKAY.

Fort St. George, 23d Auguſt 1776.

Atteſted to be a true copy of the original, as delivered to the Honorable Preſident George Lord Pigot, &c. Council, on or about eleven o'clock this forenoon, by the direction and order of the within mentioned George Stratton, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES BROMLEY, Not. Pub. (L.S.)

To the Officer commanding the Main Guard, Madraſs.

SIR,

I am directed by George Stratton, Eſq. Sir Robert Fletcher, &c. Gentlemen of Council of Fort St. George, whoſe names are affixed to an atteſted copy (herewith ſent) of a Letter by me delivered this morning to the Honorable George Lord Pigot, Preſident, &c. Claud Ruſſell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone, Eſqrs. of Council of Fort St.

St. George, to ſerve the ſame upon you, of which you will pleaſe to take notice; and am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Fort St. George,
23d Auguſt 1776.

(Signed) CHAS BROMLEY, Not. Pub.

Encloſure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th of April 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt Indies.

Honorable,

LORD PIGOT having ſo fully acquainted your Honors with the very extraordinary events which have lately occurred here, nothing remains for us but to ſend a copy of a letter which each of us received, ſealed with the Company's ſeal.

"SIR,

"THE very illegal and unconſtitutional conduct you have ſhewn in "the ſupport you have given to Lord Pigot, convinces us that no depen- "dence can be placed in you; and conſidering how much the affairs of "the Company have ſuffered through theſe means, we are reduced to the "neceſſity of ſuſpending you, and you are accordingly hereby ſuſpended "from the ſervice. We are, Sir,

"Your moſt obedient ſervants,

Fort St. George,
24th Auguſt 1776.

(Signed) "GEORGE STRATTON,
"HENRY BROOKE,
"ROBERT FLETCHER,
"CHARLES FLOYER,
"ARCHDALE PALMER,
"FRANCIS JOURDAN,
"GEORGE MACKAY."

Conſcious

Conſcious of having done our duty to the Company, we remain,

Honorable,

Your faithful humble Servants,

Madraſs,
22d September 1776.

CLAUD RUSSELL,
A. DALRYMPLE,
J. M. STONE.

Letter from George Stratton, Eſquire to the Chairman of the Honorable the Eaſt-India Company, dated Fort St. George, 21ſt September 1776, and Poſtſcripts of the 25th and 26th of September 1776. Received from the Chairman 2d April 1777.

SIR,

BY the General Letter ſent in this ſhip, the Grenville, you will be informed of the change of Government that has happened at this Preſidency, which could not poſſibly be avoided or delayed, unleſs the Majority of the Council would have ſacrificed the welfare of the Company, together with their own perſonal ſafety, and the honor of our faithful ally the Nabob, to the arbitrary and unjuſtifiable attempts of Lord Pigot. In a few words, ſeven Members of the Board, to prevent theſe ſeveral alarming conſequences, have removed his Lordſhip from the Government, and have ſuſpended Meſſ. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, from the ſervice for ſupporting him in thoſe illegal meaſures. I ſhall attempt to give you a ſummary of our proceedings from December 1775, in hopes that the rectitude of our conduct throughout this affair, eſpecially our conſtant moderation, will meet with your approbation, and induce you to give your warmeſt ſupport to a meaſure that was founded on the intereſt of the Company, and the honor of the nation in general. I am very much afraid that in the courſe of this Letter I muſt, in juſtification of myſelf, ſometimes appear to reflect too ſeverely upon the private as well as the public character of Lord Pigot; my former regard and reſpect for him renders this a very diſagreeable taſk, but I muſt either point out the ſecret motives by which he was actuated, and thereby exculpate myſelf, or elſe, by an improper delicacy towards him, I muſt injure myſelf, and alſo ſacrifice the intereſt of the public.

The general ſatisfaction in this Settlement upon his Lordſhip's arrival, and the harmony and unanimity that ſubſiſted at the Board for ſome time afterwards, muſt convince every unprejudiced perſon that we were all ſincerely rejoiced at his appointment. We even paid ſome compliments to him

that we could not juſtify to our conſtituents upon any other grounds than by ſaying, it was better to give up trifles than to obſtruct public buſineſs by ſowing the ſeed of conſtant diſſenſion amongſt ourſelves. It appears to me that his Lordſhip miſunderſtood theſe laudable motives of our condeſcenſion for a pre-determined paſſive obedience to all his dictates. The language he uſed to us at the Board, his behaviour to the Nabob at the Durbar, and the various important affairs he undertook to tranſact without our knowledge or concurrence, but above all his total neglect of public buſineſs, obliged us, however unwilling, to adopt a new mode of behaviour. Every Member of the Board moſt ſincerely wiſhed to carry the orders of the Court of Directors into execution relative to Tanjore; but the unaccountable delays about this time not only gave us great reaſon to complain, but the indignity with which he treated us gave us the greateſt concern, as it lowered us in the eyes of the Settlement, he having often made it a practice of ſummoning the Council at Ten, and while we were waiting for him ſome hours, he was amuſing himſelf at the gardens. What other reaſon could he have for thus treating his Council with ſo much contempt, and delaying buſineſs of the greateſt importance, but to ſhew that he did not think their concurrence neceſſary to arbitrary meaſures, which he had determined at all events to purſue, and to the execution of which he was reſolved not to admit of any oppoſition.

His Lordſhip during three months, from the middle of December to March, ſeldom condeſcended to report to the Board the reſult of his daily conferences with the Nabob on the Tanjore buſineſs (indeed I believe none of his reports were ever thought of conſequence to record). Surprized at his ſilence on this important ſubject, I was at length deputed by ſeveral Members of the Council to requeſt he would inform the Board what progreſs he had made towards carrying the orders of the Company into execution. He was apparently diſpleaſed at being thus publicly called upon, and ſoon after declared, that as he found the Nabob was trifling with him, he was determined to leave the Preſidency, and finiſh this buſineſs at Tanjore in perſon. Such a reſolution ſurprized us, but induced, by the high reſpect we

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wiſh to pay to all the orders received from home, and earneſtly deſirous that thoſe which came by the Grenville ſhould be immediately fulfilled, we gave our conſent, not thinking that any concealed diſlike to the Nabob, or any conſideration of a private nature, could influence his Lordſhip's conduct; but experience has ſhewn that we were miſtaken in theſe conjectures. His Lordſhip has ſacrificed the honor of the Company to an erroneous opinion of his perſonal authority over the Nabob, to the gratification of his perſonal reſentment againſt him, to an abſurd idea of his being independent of his Council, and to the improvement of his private fortune.

Before his departure for Tanjore ſome debates aroſe at the Board relative to his military authority when abſent from the Preſidency. In this affair I joined with the Majority of the Board in repoſing great confidence in his conduct, by conferring upon him a power of commanding the troops in every garriſon where he ſhould occaſionally reſide. In acting thus we perhaps deviated from the inſtructions of the Court of Directors, but we were willing to gratify Lord Pigot in every reſpect that might render him ſenſible of our confidence, eſpecially as we hoped by ſuch means to forward the deſigns of his journey. When his Lordſhip arrived on the borders of the Tanjore country, he wrote to the Nabob, returning him thanks for the attention he had met with in the road from all the ſervants of his government. This Letter gave us great ſatisfaction, as ſuch an appearance of harmony ſubſiſting between the Nabob and Lord Pigot ſeemed to promiſe a ſpeedy and happy concluſion of this buſineſs. Almoſt the firſt news of his Lordſhip's proceedings came to us from the Nabob, who complained of a troop of European Cavalry being ſent to Arialoor, a fort belonging to the Nabob, to ſeize on one of his ſervants, who was in poſſeſſion of all his papers and accounts both public and private. We were very much aſtoniſhed at this violation of our treaty with the Nabob, when Lord Pigot could not be a ſtranger to the 22d paragraph of the Grenville's Letter, wherein the Directors ſay, "That they "fear it is impracticable to obtain a ſtatement of the Nabob's receipts "and diſburſements of the revenues of the Tanjore country;" which implies, that they did not think themſelves authorized to obtain them by mili-

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tary force. But gueſs our aſtoniſhment, Sir, when we found that his Lordſhip, ſo far from apologizing to the Nabob for his conduct, declared, "That "if the gates of Arialoor, or any other gates in the Payen Gaut ſhould be "ſhut againſt the troops of the Company, when they aſked admiſſion *by* "*his authority*, it would be an improper return *to the man who had put* "*his Highneſs in poſſeſſion of them.*"

When his Lordſhip thus arrogated to himſelf the ſole merit of our ſucceſſes in the laſt war, and upbraided an ally of the crown with perſonal ingratitude to him, no wonder he ſhould conſider himſelf ſuperior to the controul of his Council and Conſtituents, and therefore aſſume to himſelf unlimited powers, which happily, and particularly in this inſtance, the freedom of our conſtitution denies to any individual. I could repeat many other acts of violence committed by his Lordſhip during his expedition to the ſouthward, but as they are moſt of them entered on our records, they are acts that need no comment. The labour and artifice even of Mr. *Dalrymple* has been loſt in attempting to explain them away. When his Lordſhip returned from Tanjore, the buſineſs being finiſhed, we expected that all his animoſity to the Nabob would ſubſide; on the contrary his reſentment became perſonal. He ſeldom mentioned his name in public or in private without adding ſome epithet in the higheſt degree illiberal and indecent, and at the ſame time ſpeaking of the Rajah of Tanjore with the moſt flattering encomiums. Although the Majority of the Board were extremely concerned to find his Lordſhip influenced by prejudice and partiality, yet, whilſt the effect of theſe paſſions were felt only in words, which could not cauſe any immediate dangerous conſequences, we could do no more than ſilently lament his unaccountable indiſcretion, and prepared to guard againſt it. In a very ſhort time afterwards his actions called upon us to interpoſe, leſt the Nabob might miſtake the party and violent meaſures of the Preſident for the deliberate acts of Government, which he muſt naturally conclude originated in orders ſent from the Court of Directors.

The firſt alarm we received was a Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, informing us that the Nabob had claimed the protection of his Majeſty's

flag, in conſequence of Lord Pigot's threats to place an European guard at the gates of his garden. This proceeded from a conference his Lordſhip had with the Nabob, when he requeſted, in the moſt flattering and ſoothing terms, that he would write him a Letter (a draft of which he preſented to him) expreſſing the moſt perfect approbation of his conduct in all tranſactions ſince his arrival, but particularly at Tanjore. It was impoſſible for the Nabob to comply with his requeſt, for he had repeatedly wrote to Bengal complaining of the behaviour of Lord Pigot. At this refuſal his Lordſhip grew outrageous, and ſwore he would immediately place an European guard over him. If Lord Pigot was ſatisfied with his own behaviour, why did he take ſuch trouble in obtaining this Letter, by doing of which he was conſcious of having acted improperly; or on what pretence could he make ſuch a demand? This affair was followed by another no leſs inconſiſtent with that reſpect and friendſhip due to the Nabob, conſidered as the Soubah of the Carnatic and an ally to the Crown. Lord Pigot being informed by a ſpy, one of his menial ſervants, that the Nabob was ſending into the country an old woman, one of his own ſubjects, under a guard, with an intention to confine her, his Lordſhip ordered a party of Seapoys to march and receive the priſoner, which was accordingly done at St. Thome, though they firſt went into the Nabob's garden, and ſo much alarmed the Nabob's ſons, that they immediately hurried with what people they had to protect their father, whom they thought was to be made a priſoner. In giving this order his Lordſhip violated our treaty with the Nabob; he violated the laws of our country, in making uſe of a military force againſt a prince not ſubject to our authority; he violated the Orders of the Company, in taking a ſtep of ſuch importance to their affairs without the concurrence of the Council; and he violated the rules of decency and good manners, in ſubjecting the Nabob's wives and family to the inſult of a ſet of men rendered inſolent by acting under his Lordſhip's ſanction and authority. Unprecedented and important as theſe ſteps of his Lordſhip's appear to be, he never reported them to the Board, nor ſhould we have heard of them, if the Nabob, who expected every day to ſee people breaking into his private apartments (a diſhonor he would not ſurvive) had not on that account applied to Sir Edward Hughes

for protection. When Lord Pigot was aſked at the Board to explain the motives of theſe violent proceedings, he did not heſitate to declare, that he meant to ſtation an European guard over the Nabob, to bring to him all Europeans who ſhould dare to viſit him. The reaſon he aſſigned for ſending Seapoys after the old woman was equally unjuſt, frivolous, and abſurd; to prevent the Nabob, who poſſeſſes an uncontrolled power over his ſubjects, from ſending any perſon whatever out of theſe diſtricts without his knowledge. Admitting the Nabob was amenable to our laws, which no man in his ſenſes can ſuppoſe, what right had his Lordſhip, by military force, to be guilty of a violence againſt the Nabob, that he could not legally have ſhewn againſt any ſubject of Great Britain? But the privileges of Princes and the rights of individuals are held in no eſtimation by a perſon of his Lordſhip's arbitrary diſpoſition. In the midſt of theſe diſputes, whilſt the mind of the Nabob was under the moſt violent agitation from the frequent inſults he received, and in conſtant apprehenſion of having them repeated, his Lordſhip received news from the Cape of Good Hope and Pondicherry that a rupture was expected with France; this intelligence he did not think proper to communicate to the Board, in all probability apprehenſive that we ſhould recommend to him to behave with more moderation towards the Nabob; for he muſt be ſenſible, that if the Nabob ſhould be diſſatisfied towards us, or even be cool in our intereſt, during a French war, our inevitable deſtruction muſt enſue. I certainly do not pay too great a compliment to his diſcernment in ſaying this; the truth and propriety of my opinion muſt be obvious to every perſon who is acquainted with our ſituation in this country. When the Majority of the Board found that mild remonſtrances had no effect, and when, by an indirect channel, they were informed of the probability of a war, they thought it their duty to loſe no time in attempting to conciliate the mind of the Nabob, and to convince him, that all the mortification he had lately ſuffered were ſolely owing to the perſonal reſentment of Lord Pigot. The Records will ſhew, that every Member of the Majority moſt earneſtly wiſhed to ſupport Lord Pigot in all legal meaſures, and to regulate their conduct ſolely by the honor and intereſt

tereſt of the Company; no perſonal pique, no hopes of perſonal advantage, had the ſmalleſt influence in any one meaſure we adopted. I ſhould be happy if regard to truth and juſtice would allow me to ſay as much for his Lordſhip; but in the courſe of this Letter I flatter myſelf I ſhall prove, that perſonal intereſt only has influenced Lord Pigot's conduct, from the inſtant he propoſed returning to India to the preſent time. If I was as much his Lordſhip's enemy as perhaps he deſerves, I ſhould in this place enter into an examination of his former conduct in this country, and attack that great reputation for diſintereſtedneſs which he acquired during his former government; but I ſhall let him enjoy it, unleſs he ſhall hereafter oblige me to ſpeak more plainly, and for the preſent confine myſelf to thoſe particulars which relate to his late miſconduct.

When his Lordſhip left this country in the year 1763, the Nabob promiſed to allow him 12,000 Pagodas per annum in England for reaſons beſt known to himſelf, he continued this money for ſome time until the Nabob wrote a Letter excuſing himſelf, by repreſenting that his finances would not allow him to do it; but when he was informed that Lord Pigot was expected to be appointed Governor, or after his Lordſhip's arrival here, he paid into the hands of Meſſrs. Stone and Monckon, on his account, bills to the value of 125,000 Pagodas, which it is believed greatly exceeds any balance due on the ſuppoſed penſion. His Lordſhip kept poſſeſſion of this money, until by ſome means or other this tranſaction had taken air, and he was apprehenſive that his treatment of the Nabob, after what had paſſed at Tanjore, would bring matters to light, the conſequence of which he well knew, and led him therefore to make a tender of the money back to the Nabob, who refuſed taking it. The acceptance of this preſent Lord Pigot does not deny; but he endeavours to exculpate himſelf by declaring, that he would not have received any money but theſe ſums, that were due to him previous to the late Act of Parliament. This evaſion I preſume will not have much weight with the Company, who cannot admit of ſuch nice diſtinctions

tinctions without appearing to give countenance to tranſactions of very dangerous tendency. We have not yet mentioned this circumſtance, as it has not yet come before us.

In all probability his Lordſhip will think that he has prevented a proſecution, and ſuppreſſed every ſuſpicion of venality, by offering to return the Nabob's money; it might perhaps extenuate the fault, if he had not, as I am informed, received bonds and orders from the Rajah of Tanjore to an amazing amount; and that the Rajah's mother had given him two diamonds, the one flat and ſquare, the other thick and of an oval form, both of great value.

My Lord Pigot, or his Dubaſh, has placed ſome of his loweſt dependents in the entire government of the Rajah; as a proof, the leading man, under whom the government of this valuable country is placed, is one Oppoo, a Conicoply, who had been a clerk in the works here under Colonel Roſs at 24 Shillings per month; and it is known to be a fact, that every man of conſequence or family in the Tanjore country are excluded from the Rajah's preſence, and he therefore ſees only things through this Oppoo, who was placed there by Moodoo Kiſtnah. Under theſe circumſtances you cannot be ſuprized if the legal proof cannot by this diſpatch be brought forward.

The orders from the Court of Directors for the reſtoration of the Rajah are clear and poſitive, but at the ſame time they certainly wiſhed to have them executed, if poſſible, without giving any uneaſineſs or diſpleaſure to the Nabob; this much was due to his honor and long attachment to us, and even to a regard for our own reputation; for if we could not in ſome degree make it appear a voluntary act of his own, the country powers muſt be aſtoniſhed at our apparent fickleneſs, in aiding the Nabob to take Tanjore, and immediately afterwards, although we acted as allies, and not as principals in the war, to deprive him of a conqueſt made by our aſſiſtance. I mention this, not to reflect on the conduct of thoſe who gave the orders, but on his Lordſhip who abuſed the power

delegated to him to carry them into execution, and wantonly to inſult the Nabob, even after the Company were in poſſeſſion of Tanjore. All his Lordſhip's tranſactions there teſtify not only diſlike, but the moſt violent rancour againſt the Nabob, and alſo a ſtrong and ſudden predilection in favour of the Rajah. In the peruſal of our proceedings, from the month of April to the 23d Auguſt, you will obſerve the utmoſt moderation and forbearance on the part of the Majority; but Lord Pigot was determined not to admit of any oppoſition to the two following propoſals, which he laid before the Board, and on the eſtabliſhment of which all his proſpects depended: "That we ſhould purchaſe the crop of grain then growing on the Tanjore country; and that we ſhould appoint a Chief and Council or Reſident to remain continually with the Rajah." Both theſe propoſals were made with ſo much art that ſome of us thought of acceding to them; but when we conſidered that the crop was ſown at the Nabob's expenſe; that the country belonged to him by right of conqueſt, when thoſe lands were cultivated; that he would be greatly diſtreſſed by the loſs of ſo much money, and conſequently not able to make good his payment to the Company and his other creditors; that he had aſſigned over the crop to diſcharge a debt which he had contracted with individuals for the expenſes of the war and the improvement of the country; and that the appointment of a Chief and Council was repugnant both to the ſenſe and ſpirit of the Company's orders, particularly in the 7th paragraph of their ſeparate Letter per Grenville: All theſe conſiderations (againſt which his Lordſhip did not oppoſe any reaſonable argument, and nevertheleſs continued deaf to all our remonſtrances) awakened our ſuſpicions. We began to perceive that there muſt be ſome concealed motives for his inflexible obſtinacy, and therefore determined to avail ourſelves of being the Majority of the Board to counteract his intereſted deſigns. So many perſons are acquainted with all money tranſactions in this country, that thoſe of a moſt private nature generally become public. Whilſt we were at a loſs to account for his Lordſhip's conduct, the report aroſe that the Rajah had made him large preſents; this at once accounted for all his Lordſhip's behaviour, his diſlike to the Nabob, his affection for the Rajah; his deſigns of taking the grain from the Nabob to

ſupply the Rajah with money, and his wiſh to appoint Mr. Ruſſell (attached to him by the ſtrongeſt ties) nominally the Company's Chief, but, as we believe, his Lordſhip's Agent to realize the bonds the Rajah had given him, when the Rajah ſhould be paid for the grain bought; and as an increaſe of our ſuſpicions, it happened much about this time the Rajah applied to us for a Lack of Pagodas, which his Lordſhip ſtrongly recommended ſhould be ſent to him.

Whilſt theſe affairs were in agitation, and every other buſineſs neglected, Colonel Stuart arrived from England, with the rank of ſecond in command in the Army: the choice made of this Gentleman by the Court of Directors to ſucceed Sir Robert Fletcher, in preference to any of the Field Officers already in India, was a convincing proof of their opinion of his ſuperior abilities; this, as well as his rank, entitled him to the command of Tanjore, where it was neceſſary to have an Officer of abilities and experience, to give the Rajah a favourable opinion of our Government, to convince him of the advantages he would derive from his connexion with us, but above all, to counteract the deſigns of the French, who, in caſe of a war, would probably make the firſt attack againſt this place. In our motives for appointing this Gentleman, whom we thought equal to this important truſt, we conſidered partly the nature of that private influence, which, from the letter and ſpirit of your inſtructions, we clearly perceived was not to be exerted by any deputy from the Board, under the denomination of a Chief or Reſident, to interfere in the Council or civil government of the Rajah, and bring on thoſe evils which experience had ſhewn been attended with ſuch fatal conſequences in Bengal, after the revolution brought on there by Lord Clive; but rather, by being maſter of his capital with a garriſon, having at its head a man of diſcretion and prudence, the Company's intereſt in eſſentials ſhould not ſuffer a foreign power to be introduced into that country, important from its ſituation reſpecting European powers, to be led by Durbar intrigue, or private adviſers near the Rajah.—In ſhort, this was the utmoſt of our wiſh, not to make

make his ſubjects a prey to European influence in the interior management of his country.

Lord Pigot declared repeatedly both public and private, that Colonel Stuart ſhould never be appointed until Mr. Ruſſell was nominated Chief or Reſident; this declaration opened our eyes, and at the ſame time brought our diſputes with his Lordſhip to a criſis. The conteſt was no longer if Mr. Ruſſell or Colonel Stuart ſhould go to Tanjore, but whether his Lordſhip ſhould ſubvert the ſyſtem of the ſervice, and aſſume to himſelf the uncontrolled authority of Government. We had already paid too many compliments to his Lordſhip, and too frequently, in doing ſo, had tranſgreſſed the orders of the Company, although we had hitherto been cautious that their affairs ſhould not ſuffer eſſentially by our condeſcenſion; but in this caſe, had we not oppoſed him with the greateſt firmneſs, we muſt ſhamefully have neglected our duty to the Company, and given up the reins of Government to a man who was in purſuit of enormous wealth for himſelf, and hurrying his Employers to inevitable deſtruction.—As honeſt men, as faithful ſervants to the Company and the public, no choice was left us. When Colonel Stuart's appointment was agreed to by a Majority of the Board, and his inſtructions were laid before us by the Commander in Chief, Lord Pigot tacitly approved, but deſired time to conſider of them. After ſome days no notice being taken of them, Sir Robert Fletcher being indiſpoſed, ſent others more full and complete,—particularly mentioning that article of the Company's inſtructions by the Grenville, where it is directed "not to interfere in the civil government of the Rajah."—When the Motion for the approval of theſe inſtructions was made, Lord Pigot refuſed to put the Queſtion, and immediately adjourned the Council.—The next day his Lordſhip perſiſted in his refuſal, declaring, at the ſame time, that he would not ſuffer this Queſtion to be agitated again.—The inſtructions being approved by the Majority, and copied fair, were preſented to his Lordſhip to be ſigned, but he poſitively refuſed, and adjourned the Council.—The next day, finding that Lord Pigot was inflexible, and that he would not liſten

to our arguments on this ſubject, we, the Majority, agreed that the Secretary ſhould ſign the inſtructions by *order of Council*, and accordingly gave this opinion *in writing*, *and at his Lordſhip's particular requeſt*, to which we all ſigned our names; but Lord Pigot addreſſing himſelf to me directly after, in a familiar manner ſaid, *that we ſhould indemnify the Secretary*, *by giving him a direct order to ſign the Letter to Colonel Stuart*, BY ORDER OF COUNCIL. The Majority did not ſee the neceſſity of this, and declared ſo; but his Lordſhip urging us to do it in the ſtrongeſt terms, a paper, to the ſame effect of that which he had before ſigned, was drawn out with only this alteration, "*that it directed the Secretary to ſign the inſtructions by order* "*of Council.*" This paper was read to his Lordſhip, and being ſoon after wrote fair, I was on the point of ſigning it at the lower end of the table; but his Lordſhip coming in, called upon me to take my ſeat; I did ſo with the fair paper in my hand—he aſked me what it was? I told him it was a fair copy of the order *he wiſhed* the Majority to give to the Secretary, and then read it to him, and immediately after ſigned it; I then gave it to Mr. Brooke, who ſat on my right hand, who alſo placed his name to it; and he was on the point of giving it to Mr. Floyer, who ſat next to him, when his Lordſhip took it out of Mr. Brooke's hand, and putting it in his pocket, produced a charge he had already prepared (I underſtand ſome days before) declaring therein that Mr. Brooke and myſelf, "Were guilty of an act ſubverſive of the authority of Government, and tending to introduce anarchy *in ſigning the order to the Secretary to give* inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, which had not being approved and paſſed by the Preſident and Council;"—this having been read, he ſoon after moved that we ſhould be ſuſpended the ſervice, which was agreed to by Meſſieurs Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Stone, notwithſtanding the Majority, previous thereto, propoſed an adjournment; but no ſooner did he carry this point but he broke up from the Council, though many Members called upon him that they had buſineſs to propoſe. It is neceſſary to obſerve, that in this ſuppoſed ſuſpenſion Lord Pigot voted, though the accuſer, and by his caſting voice ſucceeded; that he would not ſuffer either Mr. Brooke or myſelf to give

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our voice on the queſtion propoſed for our ſuſpenſion. The next morning, being the 23d ultimo, Lord Pigot directed the Secretary to ſend round a ſummons for a Council, in which the name of Mr. Brooke and myſelf were omitted; therefore Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay refuſed to attend, it being no longer a Council acting under the Company's commiſſion, but an unconſtitutional faction entirely devoted to his Lordſhip. We firſt had reſource to thoſe meaſures which the law directs to be taken in theſe caſes, by ſending a proteſt againſt all his Lordſhip's proceedings by a Notary Public; this our moderation produced the ſuſpenſion of Meſſieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, and at the ſame time, the Town-Major was ſent by this Minority of the Council to Sir Robert Fletcher to put him under an arreſt for a capital crime, and the Town-Adjutant with the general orders to Colonel Stuart, appointing him Commander in Chief of the Forces. The Government thus diſſolved, Sir Robert Fletcher threatened to be tried by military law for his life, and for his conduct as a Member of the Board, gave every one of us the greateſt reaſon to be apprehenſive of our perſonal ſafety, as well as for the ſafety of the Settlement in general; knowing alſo the ſecret motives by which his Lordſhip was actuated, and convinced that he would make uſe of the power he had aſſumed to effect purpoſes highly detrimental to the intereſt of the Company, we were called upon by our duty to ourſelves and our conſtituents to exert ourſelves to wreſt the power from the hands of his Lordſhip, and to endeavour to reſtore the public tranquillity. At this time, when the arreſt was intimated to Sir Robert Fletcher, he was in a dying way, unable to raiſe himſelf from his couch; we conſidered therefore Colonel Stuart, in virtue of your powers, as the acting Commander in Chief when this ſuppoſed arreſt took place, and, *as the legal Government veſted in the Majority of the Board by his Majeſty's Charter*, we gave him our orders and inſtructions accordingly. From a ſenſe of his duty he made no difficulty to obey our orders, and by his uncommon addreſs and firmneſs greatly contributed to avert all the evils impending over this Government, by preparing matters here with ſecrecy and expedition, and by putting Lord Pigot in arreſt under the care of an

officer of great prudence and diſcretion (cõmanding at the Mount) whom he had ſelected and previouſly prepared for that purpoſe. To prevent the poſſibility of any diſturbance happening by Lord Pigot's reſiding near the Preſidency, we have repeatedly requeſted him to remove to one of the Subordinates, or to go to Europe; but he declines accepting of our offer, and declares publicly, if he was releaſed, or could eſcape from his confinement, he would immediately *come to the Fort*; and, if he could be re-eſtabliſhed in his government, that he would hang Colonel Stuart, Colonel Edington, and Captain Lyſaught. Such declarations as theſe oblige us, however unwilling, ſtill to keep his Lordſhip in arreſt at the Mount, to prevent the effect of his deſperate madneſs. He is there treated with every mark of reſpect, and has his family and friends continually with him. If I have omitted any arguments for the neceſſity of putting Lord Pigot under arreſt, I truſt that you will find them fully ſtated in the public diſpatch, and that you will be convinced, not only of this neceſſity, but likewiſe the reaſons of ſtate which oblige us ſtill to keep a watch over him; and which I privately ſay to you, and in the utmoſt confidence, not having as yet communicated the ſame to the Council, will oblige us to ſend him to be judged by you our conſtituents; for I ſay to you, that public buſineſs cannot properly be carried on while he remains in the country; and this is not only my opinion, but the opinions of the Nabob and every Member of the Board, and we wait on this important point for the opinion of the Governor-General and Council.

Here I beg leave to requeſt your attention to the following points.—— Lord Pigot's proclamation at Tanjore, not to give protection or rice to the Nabob's people; and if any perſon gave ſhelter to any of his ſervants, he ſhould be conſidered as criminal.——His Lordſhip's behaviour to Abran Khan, Nizam ul din Khan, Ally din Khan, and other people of conſequence belonging to the Nabob, whom he inſulted with ſingle guards belonging to the Company, in the face of 6000 men under their command belonging to the Nabob, who had given particular orders on no account to make any reſiſtance.

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The countenance and protection Lord Pigot gave to many ſervants belonging to the Nabob, but eſpecially to his ſon-in-law Khire ul din Khan, who is largely indebted to his Highneſs, and alſo to European ſhopkeepers.—His Lordſhip invited this diſſipated young man to fly from the Nabob, to live in a houſe hired by him in our Black Town, and ſurrounded by our Seapoys, to raiſe a ſuſpicion that the Nabob intended to murder him.—All this is contrary to a former agreement between this Government and the Nabob, who makes it a point to apprehend and return every deſerter or fugitive from this place; and unleſs we had his friendſhip on this occaſion, we might ever expect great deſertion among the European ſoldiers.—Beſides, ſhould not this agreement be binding on our part, every Amuldar or renter under the Nabob, who had the means but not the inclination to pay their arrears, would, by this encouragement, declaredly given by this Government, fly to us for protection to avoid paying their demand.

His Lordſhip miſ-repreſenting the ſentiments of the Rajah of Tanjore, and alſo the ſtate of the magazines in that garriſon to the Board; and his Lordſhip privately altering the Company's records—Theſe and many other facts you will find proved in our Minutes of Conſultation, which muſt ſet forth his conduct to you in a proper light. And here I muſt beg leave to obſerve as a proof, that we had in view your intereſt and the national honor reſpecting Lord Pigot's conduct at Tanjore, as well as with reſpect to the Nabob. The fortunate concurrence of ideas of the Governor-General and Council upon theſe points, appear clearly by the ſingular unanimity of theſe gentlemen in the Letter and Reſolutions which go numbered in the Packet. This circumſtance in particular has afforded matter of great ſatisfaction to me; becauſe, in the ſituation in which the State has placed that Supreme Council, I ſhall think it my duty to concur with them, and to meet their ideas, when it is not repugnant to the Company's orders and inſtructions.

Thus, Sir, I have given you a ſummary of what has paſſed on this occaſion, and the various cauſes which gave riſe to this change in the Govern-

ment,

ment, very improperly called by ſome a Revolution. I flatter myſelf every unprejudiced perſon will approve of what has been done. On reflection on what has paſſed, I confeſs we were to blame not to have acted at firſt with more ſpirit, when we perceived the leading principles of Lord Pigot's conduct: we allowed him to dictate ſo long, that the evil became inveterate, and the remedy to be effectual muſt neceſſarily be beyond the common rules.

His Lordſhip's friends, taking advantage of the remembrance of his former ſervices, doubtleſs will attempt to injure us in the opinion of our conſtituents, and endeavour to influence their judgment; but I flatter myſelf an inſinuation only, unſupported by proof, will have no effect. If I had the ſame cupidity for money and ſuch boundleſs ambition as Lord Pigot, my fortune, acquired by a ſervice of upwards of twenty-five years, might have been greatly increaſed, and, inſtead of my preſent competency, I ſhould have made, like his Lordſhip, half a million ſterling.

I make no doubt but his Lordſhip will accuſe us of partiality to the Nabob. Do our proceedings ſhew any thing like it? Have we ever given up any one point to him contrary to the Orders of the Company, or even paid any compliments to him but thoſe due to his rank? Had we acted otherwiſe we ſhould have failed in our duty; but in particular ſhould we not now in good policy, when the Fortreſs of Tanjore is garriſoned by the Company's troops, when all cauſe of temptation for independence on his part is removed, when we ought to reconcile him by little and little to his preſent ſituation, now the ſtrength of Britain is employed at ſuch a diſtance as to deprive us of immediate ſupport from thence; ought we not, I ſay, on all theſe accounts, to treat the Nabob of the Carnatic with every degree of reſpect, regard, and attention, particularly when ſo ordered by Letters and Inſtructions from home? Good policy as well as humanity dictate ſuch a conduct to us.

I preſume that Lord Pigot will impute the part which I have taken to deſire of being in the Chair: if this conſideration could have had any weight with me, I ſhould have acted otherwiſe; for I am convinced, had I attached myſelf to Lord Pigot, and aſſiſted him in realizing his Tanjore bonds, that he would have returned to England in the Grenville. It is a fact that I had no idea of remaining to ſucceed to the Government; which is well known to many in the Settlement, having ſent home my fortune, and was determined to leave India on the Greenwich. My attornies Meſſieures Pigou and Fitzhugh will teſtify the truth of this.

Upon the whole, Sir, the Board as well as myſelf have found it almoſt next to impoſſible to bring the complicated, irregular, unconſtitutional, and violent conduct of Lord Pigot under any one, two, or three heads of charges; I muſt therefore beg, that you and the gentlemen will view it in the general line. We wiſh moſt ſincerely to have digeſted the Hiſtory of his Government, and brought it under ſome ſpecific charge, to be publickly known to him as well as to his Employers; doubt whether this will be in our power before the ſhip ſails. One thing is clear; we all agree that he has abuſed the power veſted in him, as a Governor and Servant of the Company; and that he has not only juſtly forfeited that ſtation, but likewiſe from the deſpair and madneſs of the man, and the poſſibility of his attempting at all riſks, by under-hand practices or violence, to recover his *military ſituation in this garriſon.* We have not a doubt but you will approve of our conduct in diſtinguiſhing his caſe from that of the ſuſpended Counſellors; and that we ſhall be juſtified in the eyes of our Employers for putting a reſtraint on his perſon, until we can concert the proper meaſures to diſpoſe of him elſewhere; upon this we ſhall conſult with the Governor-General and Council in Bengal.

The hurry of diſpatching this ſhip, of writing to Bengal, tranſacting the current buſineſs, and counteracting his Lordſhip's ſecret machinations to cauſe confuſion in the Settlement, muſt apologize for every inaccuracy you will meet with in this Letter; the facts contained in it you will find

in our records; they are told in the ſimple language of truth, unadorned with the graces of compoſition; but I flatter myſelf they will not be leſs attended to on that account.

As Sir Edward Hughes intends ſending the Swallow to Suez on the 30th inſtant, you will receive a duplicate of this letter by that conveyance, as well as of our public diſpatches, which will be intruſted to the care of Colonel Capper, who having had the Board's permiſſion to go home on family affairs, voluntarily offered his ſervices to the Council on this important occaſion. He is a gentleman of the greateſt worth, and well acquainted with every concurrence; I muſt therefore take the liberty of not only recommending him to you in the ſtrongeſt manner, but at the ſame time to requeſt you will apply to him for any information you may require reſpecting the unjuſtifiable conduct of Lord Pigot, not mentioned in the public advices or in this letter. As I found it neceſſary that a gentleman ſhould accompany Colonel Capper in caſe of ſickneſs or death, I deſired he would aſk one to accompany him for this purpoſe, and he accordingly requeſted this favour of Mr. Dighton, a young fellow of worth, who ſhewed the greateſt readineſs on this occaſion, though it was attended with much inconveniency to himſelf; and underſtanding that it was the wiſh of every Member of the Council, as well as the intention of Lord Pigot and thoſe we ſuſpended, to recommend him to the Directors, I could not in this caſe heſitate a moment in propoſing to do this in a public letter, and you will oblige me in getting him nominated a Factor in the ſervice. The Nabob and Commodore's advices are alſo intruſted to the care of Colonel Capper with the ſame injunctions, that in caſe of ſickneſs or death they ſhould be given to Mr. Dighton.

This letter I have intruſted to the care of Mr. Bryan Scottney, who goes in the Grenville, a gentleman whom I have long known and have the greateſt regard for; any ſervice therefore that you can with propriety render him I ſhould eſteem it a ſingular favour.

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I have only to add my ſincere aſſurances, that I ſhall always make a point in paying every attention to the orders of my Employers, and that nothing ſhall be wanting on my part to promote their intereſt and welfare.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant,

Fort St. George,
21ſt September 1776.

GEO. STRATTON.

John Roberts, Eſquire.

Fort St. George, 25th September 1776.

SIR,

SINCE cloſing our diſpatches, I underſtand that the Nabob has received information with reſpect to the depoſition of Mr. Randall, proving that he was encouraged by Lord Pigot's friends as well as himſelf to make this depoſition, and had money given him for this purpoſe; this information, I underſtand, is given upon oath to the Nabob, by a perſon who was in Mr. Randall's company when the above circumſtances came to his knowledge. If I can procure a copy of this information before the ſhip ſails, I ſhall ſend it encloſed in this letter.

I cannot conclude without giving you every aſſurance, that I ſhall always conduct myſelf in ſuch a manner as to promote the Company's intereſt, and punctually to follow their orders; having the honor to remain with reſpect,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient hnmble ſervant,

GEO. STRATTON.

SIR,

SIR,

SINCE closing the public letter, dated yesterday, we have received a letter addressed to the Board from Mr. Charles Weston, accompanying a declaration with respect to the deposition of Mr. Randall, copies of both which I have the honor to enclose to you herewith, as it will shew you the bad intention of Randall in introducing the circumstances of the visit he paid to Comera. I have reason to believe that Randall, foreseeing the consequence of a law prosecution here, he will by some means or other get home in the Grenville, or some other ship; but if my information be true, the infamy of his character is well known in England.

I am, &c.

27th September 1776.

G. S.

Letter from Henry Brooke, Eſquire.

To John Roberts, Eſq. or the Chairman for the time being, for the Affairs of the Eaſt-India Company, London. Dated Fort St. George, 2d October, 1776; received the 2d April, 1777.

SIR,

The multiplicity of buſineſs when the Grenville was diſpatched, prevented me at that time from being as full on ſome parts of our Preſident's conduct as I could wiſh.

Mr. Floyer having given his vote contrary to the Preſident's opinion, regarding the aſſignments on the Tanjore country, he turned to him and ſaid, "I ſee you have given your vote againſt me, but let me tell you, "Sir, that any man who ſhall dare to give his voice againſt me at this Board, "I ſhall look upon him *as my declared Enemy*; and in caſe any place of truſt "or emolument in the ſervice ſhall become vacant, he ſhall never be ap- "pointed thereto, if that appointment ſhall reſt with me," or words to that effect. Theſe were taken down by the Preſident's order on a ſeparate piece of paper by the Secretary; but the Board, out of a deſire to purſue moderate meaſures, did not inſiſt upon their being entered on our records, in the hope that the Preſident would ſee into the miſtaken ideas of his powers; but inſtead of changing his conduct, he has perſevered in the ſame ſentiments; I think myſelf therefore at liberty to mention this circumſtance to you.

The Preſident has not ſcrupled on all occaſions to aſſert, that we are *his Council*, thereby arrogantly putting himſelf in the place of the Company, and aſſuming to himſelf all their powers.

It is proper to inform you, that many obſtructions were thrown in the way by the Preſident to prevent the Company's orders regarding the Committee of Circuit from being carried into execution; and for that purpoſe he ſuddenly propoſed, that the Chief and Council ſhould be ſent to Tanjore, declaring that the Board muſt determine thereon immediately. Several Members objected to this manner of proceeding, obſerving, that the ſubject was new and important, and that they could not give an opinion unleſs time was allowed them to conſider it. The Rajah's fears and

alarms were frequently mentioned by the Preſident, and Mr. Ruſſell propoſed to proceed thither to quell them.—The Board knew of none, and called upon the Preſident to explain them, but he could not; and from a letter lately received from the Rajah, it appears he never had any, unleſs ſuch as the Preſident himſelf might have raiſed by the aforeſaid propoſal; to which it was objected, that as it was the Company's orders, that there ſhould not be any interference in the Rajah's Government, the Board could not give their conſent; eſpecially as Mr. Ruſſell was named by the Company to be a Member of the Committee of Circuit, and ſhould therefore proceed on that ſervice before any other.

I will not inſiſt on the importance of ſending Colonel Stuart to Tanjore, though the Preſident has not, nor cannot give any *public reaſon* why he ſhould not go to that great charge; the matter of more importance was *the doctrine*, which he held at the Board;—That no queſtion could or ſhould be put, that was not put by himſelf, nor would he put any that was not to his approbation; and that no reſolution could be carried into effect that was not alſo approved by him. This was ſtriking at the very foundation of the Company's ſafety, and rights of the Council, which, if admitted, could not be recalled by us; the virtue and uſe of the Council would have been annihilated, and the whole powers of Government graſped within the hands of the Preſident: It was not therefore the matter of importance, whether this or that man went to Tanjore, but when the Company's intereſts and rights of the Council are publicly diſcuſſed at the Board, it is of the greateſt import, that they be maintained according to the rules and conſtitution of the Service.—I will beg leave to add, that this matter had been deliberated upon for many days, and every thing that patience and reaſon could ſuggeſt was urged to convince him of his error, but in vain. The Company's ſtanding orders were read, wherein they ſay, the reſolution of the majority ſhall be binding and concluſive, and the diſſenters ſhall conform thereto, but ſhall not be blamed for the conſequence. Mr. Vanſittart's Narrative was read, and the uſage of the Service from immemorial time in all the Preſidencies explained; and laſtly, the Act of Parliament of ſeventy-four was produced. To theſe no good arguments were oppoſed.—For beſides the other paſſages that I have quoted, is it poſſible to conceive, that the Court of Directors ſhould mean to inveſt their inferior Preſidents with a power, which their Governor-General, the perſon of higheſt ſtation and authority in India, was not poſſeſſed of?

It is neceſſary that I ſhould explain fully what paſt at the Board on the 22d of Auguſt, as the Council was adjourned to that day, for the purpoſe of

of taking into their conſideration the inſtructions to Colonel Stuart. The Preſident, having before refuſed to put the queſtion for approving them, was that day called upon again to put it, which he obſtinately refuſed to do, or to ſuffer it to be put. The Majority then having approved the inſtructions, judged proper to direct the Secretary to forward them to Colonel Stuart, *by order of Council*, as the only moderate expedient left; but this alſo he would not allow to be done, aſſerting a right, as Preſident of the Council, to put a negative on any reſolution of the Majority which he did not approve: nevertheleſs a paper was drawn out, directed to the Secretary, and ſigned by ſix Members to the above effect; but the Preſident having excepted to the words, *we think ourſelves authorized to direct, &c.* it was agreed by the Majority to alter them, and inſert in their room, *we direct the Secretary, &c.* This alteration was made not only with the concurrence of the Preſident, but at his ſpecial deſire. While this paper was writing fair, the Preſident retired with ſome of his aſſociates into his own apartment, where he ſtayed for ſome time, and then returning to the table, the Members took their ſeats according to form. The paper ſo altered being then read to the Preſident, no one excepted thereto. Mr. Stratton being the ſenior Member ſigned it firſt, and gave it to me; I ſigned it alſo, and was handing it to Mr. Floyer to ſign, when the Preſident raiſing himſelf in his chair acroſs the corner of the table, ſnatched it ſuddenly out of my hand, put it into his pocket, and inſtantly drew therefrom a written charge againſt Mr. Stratton and myſelf, for attempting by that order to ſubvert the Government. It was in vain that the other four Members declared their reſolution to ſign it alſo, and that they demanded it for that purpoſe; he refuſed it, and confined the charge to us two only, for had he admitted the others, it would have become of no effect, becauſe we ſhould then have been a majority. He called for the votes upon the queſtion, refuſing to admit Mr. Stratton's and mine, as being the party accuſed. There then would have remained four againſt the ſuſpenſion, and on the other ſide three, excluding the Preſident as the accuſer, which was urged on the ſame principle that he excluded the accuſed; but he inſiſted it was different, and, by virtue of his caſting voice, pronounced that we were ſuſpended. The manner in which this buſineſs was hurried through, and the facility with which his aſſociates joined him, is difficult for me to deſcribe; but to all unprejudiced minds it muſt at once convey this idea, that it was a preconcerted ſcheme to gain a majority at all events. On his requiring the Members to vote, thoſe of the majority moved for an adjournment, but he would not allow it; and after the votes were collected, they moved for ſetting, but he haſtily broke up the Council and retired. Mr. Stratton and myſelf entered our proteſts at the table, but the Preſident afterwards ſtruck them out of the records with his own hand, as the Secretary informs me.

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Either the Majority is the Government, or it is not; if it is not, why are the afore-mentioned paſſages given to miſguide us? but if the Majority is the Government, it ſurely muſt mean a power to execute their own reſolves, or it muſt mean nothing; for of what uſe is a reſolution without a power to execute it? If exceptions ſhould be made to the mode of execution, in reſpect to the arreſt of the Governor's perſon, let it be conſidered what other mode was left for us to take: There was only this alternative, to reſign the intereſts of the Company, and the rights they had repoſed in us, to the will and power of one man; for by the ſame means, and on the ſame principles, that he attempted to ſuſpend us, he might by degrees have ſuſpended the few that adhered to him. Could we make this reſignation without betraying our truſt? Or could we allow it to be taken from us by an action compoſed of *trick and violence*, without juſtly incurring the reputation of want of firmneſs to do our duty, and making ourſelves reſponſible for the evils that might enſue? I think we could not.—And the tranquillity that now prevails ſhews, that as it was in our opinion the laſt, ſo perhaps it was the ſafeſt and beſt expedient we could have adopted; for what grounds had we to believe, that miſchiefs would not have happened from the conduct of the man who could not be reſtrained by the orders of the Company, the Conſtitution of the Service, and the Act of Parliament?

I am, SIR,

Very reſpectfully,

Fort St. George,
2d October, 1776.

Your moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervant,

HENRY BROOKE.

By his Majeſty's ſhip Swallow, via Suez.

Letter from Mr. Monro to the Majority of the Council, dated 23d September, 1776.—Received over-land 7th April, 1777.

To George Stratton, Eſquire, Sir Robert Fletcher, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Fourdan, and George Mackay, Eſquires.

GENTLEMEN,

You have at laſt thought proper to ſend (two hours before the time fixed by you for the cloſing of the Grenville's packet) your proceedings relative

relative to my ſuſpenſion, although applied for by me by letter on the 16th Inſtant. Was I not to inform you, that I have already acquainted our Honourable Maſters of your tardineſs in ſending them, I ſhould think myſelf deficient in point of candour.

The ſhortneſs of the time does not permit me now to make any remarks on your proceedings in regard to me, I reſerve this to a future opportunity, in caſe I ſhould think it expedient; in the mean time, I refer my cauſe to your Honourable Maſters and mine, who will judge between us, whoſe conduct, in regard to the ſtile of the addreſs claimed by you, for the Gentlemen whom you have found it expedient to enact and proclaim Preſident of your Council and Governor of Fort Saint George: and now, gentlemen, for this time I take my leave of you, not doubting but the juſtice of our Honourable Maſters will extend to you and to your

Humble Servant.

Fort St. George,
23d Sept. 1776.

(A true copy)

R. D. MONRO.

Tranſlation of a Letter from the Nabob to Governor Stratton, dated and received 18th September, 1776.—Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

The Commodore ſhewed me a paper this morning, containing a very extraordinary matter relative to my Son Ameer ul Omrah Behauder. For the vindication of the honour of my family, which has always been famed for mildneſs, and averſion to the ſhedding of blood, and in compliance with the earneſt entreaty of my Son, I requeſt that you will cauſe Mr. Randall to be confined, and that you will go into a thorough examination of this buſineſs; if you do not, he will run away, and my Son will lay under groundleſs ſuſpicions, which may not eaſily be removed. It is not neceſſary for me in this letter to inform you of the villainy of Mr. Randall; it will be ſufficiently evident to you when he appears before you. It is nevertheleſs proper for me to ſhew there is cauſe, from other criminal behaviour, for his being impriſoned, that thereby there may be an opportunity of proving his guilt, he (Mr. Randall) having forged letters from Lord North, and Mr. Robinſon, Secretary of Lord North, containing the worſt deſigns, in order to impoſe upon me; he likewiſe forged paragraphs of letters from

Sir Elijah Impey, and often declared to my Son, if he would give him money he would do any thing in England for him, whether good or bad, all which will be fully ſhewn. My Son ſaw from ſuch behaviour of Mr. Randall, that he was a bad man, and therefore determined not to ſhew him any favour, which Mr. Randall obſerving was very angry, and ſpoke to my Son in a very unbecoming manner. Abdul Ruſheed Cawn, my Dewan, upon this account told Mr. Randall four days ago, in the preſence of Major Alexander and Mr. Mellew, that he was diſmiſſed from my ſervice; upon which he went two days afterwards with the moſt malignant intentions, and made a falſe declaration before the Mayor's Court: all this will be made fully to appear upon examination. With reſpect to the life of Lord Pigot, I truſt in God it will not be my ill fortune that he ſhould die in this country; I have hopes that by his living to go to England to have his conduct examined into by the King and Parliament, and the Company, I ſhall be enabled to obtain publick juſtice for the wrongs he has done me.—What can I ſay more?

(A true copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, Eſq. to the Nabob, dated Fort St. George, 22d September, 1777.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To his Highneſs Navaub Walau Jau, Umeer ul Hind, Omdat ul Mulk, Anſuph ul Dowlah, Anwar ul dien Khan Behauder, Zuphur Jung, Sepoy Saulaur, Soubahdar of the Carnatick Payen Ghaut.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

I have had the honour to receive your Highneſſes letter, dated the 18th and 22d Inſtant. The affidavits you have forwarded, as well as the circumſtances, render the aſſertions of Mr. Randall not to be believed. I have the pleaſure to acquaint your Highneſs, that the Council all join with me in opinion, that your Son Ameer ul Omrah is incapable of ſuch a deſign. The conduct of Mr. Randall is undoubtedly baſe, but it is not in my power to give your Highneſs the ſatisfaction you require, by putting that man under confinement; all that our laws will authorize, in caſes of this kind, is a proſecution

ſecution for defamation, and recovery of damages; and in caſe of the parties not finding bail, he will be confined.

I have the honour to be,

With profound reſpect,

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

Your Highneſſes moſt ſincere, moſt obedient,

And moſt humble ſervant,

Fort St. George,
September 22d. 1776.

GEORGE STRATTON.

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Tranſlate of a Letter from the Nabob to Governor Stratton, dated and received 22d September, 1776.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

In order to ſhew you and all the world the villainy of Mr. Randall, and his malignant intention of defaming my family, I ſend you encloſed the affidavits of ſome European gentlemen, together with the affidavits of others ſworn to before the Mayor. I entreat to know what juſtice and ſatisfaction you can give me and my family upon this occaſion? I beg you will write to me ſoon. I could ſend you abundance of other atteſtations to the wickedneſs and villainy of Mr. Randall.—What can I ſay more?

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depoſition

Depoſition of Muttee Kiſtnah.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Muttee Kiſtnah, Inhabitant of Sadraſs, now ſerving his Highneſs the Nabob of the Carnatick, depoſeth and ſaith.

That about ſix weeks ago, Maſter Randall came to him in the office, and having taken him aſide, ſaid, that he had received a letter from Lord North, and requeſted him to communicate the ſame to the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Behadar. This deponent delivered Mr. Randall's meſſage to his maſter; his Excellency ordered that Mr. Randall ſhould be brought into his preſence; Mr. Randall being admitted, the Nabob gave orders to this deponent to ſtand at a diſtance, ſaw Mr. Randall reading a letter to the Nabob, he was not near enough to hear the contents, but he could perceive that the Nabob ſmiled; after which Mr. Randall returned from the Nabob, ſeemingly much pleaſed.

A few days after, Mr. Randall came again to acquaint the Nabob, that he had received a letter from Mr. Robinſon; he was again admitted to the Nabob's preſence, and having, in the ſight of this deponent, as before, read a letter, he returned well ſatisfied.

Some days after this, Mr. Randall informed this deponent, that he had in his poſſeſſion a letter from Sir Elijah Impey, directed to the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah, and ſtriking his hand upon the outſide of his pocket, as an indication of the letter being there.

He declared, that unleſs the Nabob would give him a ſum of money, he would deliver the letter upon no other terms; this deponent not crediting Mr. Randall's aſſertion, did not at that time deliver the letter to his Excellency.

About a week ago, Mr. Randall came in the evening, and declared to this deponent, that if the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Behaudar did not immediately give him money, he would ruin his reputation and character both in England and in the Carnatick.

This

This deponent acquainted the Nabob with what Mr. Randall had threatened; to which the Nabob replied, I am not to be intimidated, he may act as he pleaſes.

MUTTEE KISTNAH.

Sworn to before me, this 20th September, 1776,

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madraſs.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depoſition of Alavel Cawn.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Alavel Cawn, Seapoy in the ſervice of his Highneſs the Nabob of the Carnatick, depoſeth and ſaith, that on Monday the 16th of September, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he being then on duty, as centry, at the garden gate, ſaw Dervaſh Mahomed, commandant, converſing with Mr. Randall, late in his Highneſs's ſervice, in the garden of the Nabob, Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder.

Sworn to, this 20th September, 1776, The mark † of Alavel Cawn.

before me,

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madraſs.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depoſition of Dervaſh Mahomed.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Dervaſh Mahomed, commandant, maketh oath and ſaith, that on Monday the 16th of September, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he, the ſaid Dervaſh Mahomed, was going towards the office to ſpeak with Muttee Kiſtnah, Dubaſh to his Excellency Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder; near the office he met Mr. Randall, who taking him familiarly by the hand, enquired after his health, and leading this deponent to another part of the garden, addreſſed him in the following terms; I have ſomething to ſay to you, which you muſt ſwear to keep ſecret; very much ſurpriſed at ſuch a requeſt, this deponent replied, how can I make ſuch a promiſe, before I know on what ſubject you are going to ſpeak? Mr. Randall more than once repeated his former requeſt, but finding this deponent inflexible, he at length ſaid, if you will come with me into the fort, and confirm by oath whatever I ſhall ſay, you ſhall be handſomely rewarded; this deponent returned for anſwer, that he would not accept of any thing, nor would he ſwear to any thing that he was not perfectly acquainted with; to which Mr. Randall, ſeemingly in great confuſion replied, if you will not go with me to the fort, you muſt at leaſt keep this converſation an inviolable ſecret. This deponent imagining it to be ſome affair in which Mr. Randall only was concerned, never mentioned a word of the matter, until he heard from publick report, that the ſaid Mr. Randall had accuſed his Excellency Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder of an intention to aſſaſſinate Lord Pigot; he then, as in duty bound, repeated to his Excellency the above related converſation, which paſſed on the 16th inſtant between him and Mr. Randall. This converſation paſſed in the Engliſh language, with which this deponent is but imperfectly acquainted as yet; he can ſafely declare, that words to this effect paſſed between him and Mr. Randall, on the day time, and place aforeſaid; and this deponent is ready to ſatisfy by oath all and every part of this depoſition, according to the forms preſcribed by his religion, and the cuſtoms of his country.

Sworn to this 20th September, 1776,

The Mark ⌒ of Dervaſh Mahomed.

before me,

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madraſs.

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depoſition of Shaick Imam.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Shaick Imam, Jemedar in the ſervice of his Highneſs the Nabob of Carratick, depoſeth and ſaith, that on Monday the 16th of September, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he ſaw Dervaſh Mahomed, Commandant, converſing with Mr. Randall, late in his Highneſs's ſervice, in the garden of the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Behauder.

Sworn to, this 20th September, 1776,

The Mark + of Shaick Imam.

before me,

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madraſs.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depoſition of Selyman Cawn,

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Selyman Cawn, Seapoy in the ſervice of his Highneſs the Nabob of the Carnatic, depoſeth and ſaith, that on Monday the 16th of September, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he being then on duty, as centry, at the garden gate, ſaw Dervaſh Mahomed, Commandant, converſing with Mr. Randall, late in his Highneſs's ſervice, in the garden of the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder.

Sworn to, this 20th September, 1776,

before me,

The mark + of Selyman Cawn.

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madraſs.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depoſition

Depoſition of Henry Norris,

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I Henry Norris, Factor, in the Honourable Eaſt-India Company's ſervice, do make oath and ſweat, that on or about the hour of nine or ten in the forenoon of Saturday the 14th Day of September, as I was paſſing through the Nabob's garden, I heard Mr. Randall call out to Ameer ul Omrah Behauder, on which the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah ſtopped his carriage; Mr. Randall then aſked the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah, in a ſtrong tone of voice, if his buſineſs was ſettled, or if he was to be put off any longer, or words to that effect; on which the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah replied, go Sir, I will have nothing to do with you buſineſs, apply to Abdul Raſheed Cawn, the Nabob's Dewan, or words to that purport; on this Mr. Randall retorted in a paſſionate tone of voice, and uſing violent geſtures, if my buſineſs is not ſettled to-night, I muſt ſettle it myſelf; from which I concluded, in my own mind, that he was reſolved on ſome extraordinary act, and that he meant to intimidate the ſaid Nabob Ameer ul Omrah, and I could not help obſerving to the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah, that he the ſaid Mr. Randall appeared reduced to deſpair.

HENRY NORRIS.

Sworn to, this 21ſt September, 1776,

before me,

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madraſs.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depoſition

Depoſition of Charles Darke, received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Mr. Randall called at my houſe on Wedneſday the 18th inſtant, and informed me of an affidavit which he had made before the Mayor, purporting that the Nabob Ameer Ul Omrah Bahauder, ſecond ſon to the Nabob of the Carnatic, had endeavoured to perſuade him to murder Lord Pigot, at the time his Lordſhip was Governor of Fort St. George; and added, that he was very glad he had not ſeen his Lordſhip at the Mount before he had made the above-mentioned affidavit. In the courſe of converſation, before he quitted the room, he told me that *he had ſeen* Lord Pigot at the Mount every day for a week paſt; I aſked him if he dined with him at Major Horne's, he anſwered in the negative, but that he had ſeen him every day at Mr. Monckon's, where his Lordſhip came to drink tea. Theſe words, or words to the like effect, paſſed between me and the above-mentioned Mr. Randall, at my houſe in St. Thomy-ſtreet, in Fort St. George, on Wedneſday the 18th day of September, 1776, on or about eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

CHARLES DARKE.

Sworn to, before me, the
19th September, 1776,

JOHN TURING,
Mayor of Madraſs.

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Declaration of Sir Robert Fletcher, received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

When I was on my voyage in the Saliſbury to this Settlement, I received a letter from Mr. William Randall, who I believe came out clandeſtinely in that ſhip. The contents of the letter were an attempt to impoſe upon me, by aſſurances which he therein gave me, that he was ſent out and employed by high authority at home, to execute ſecret ſervices at the different Preſidencies; and he added, that he could be of great ſervice to me if I would then engage him in my intereſt.

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Letter from Mr. Bird to Sir Robert Fletcher.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

DEAR SIR,

I perfectly well remember the ſurprize you expreſſed on board the Saliſbury, at having received a letter from Mr. William Randall, a paſſenger, wherein he mentions his being ſent out by the Government to viſit the different Settlements of Bengal, Madraſs, and Bombay, and his tendering his ſervice to you; from his ſituation he flattered himſelf he might be of ſome uſe. You could not help being aſtoniſhed at the contents of the afore-mentioned letter, and wiſhed to know my ſentiments of the man; and I think you further aſked me, if I thought the man was in his mind? To the truth of the above I am ready to declare upon oath, ſhould there appear any neceſſity.

I am, DEAR SIR,

With perfect eſteem,

Garden-Houſe,
September 21, 1776.

Your moſt humble ſervant,

ROB. SMITH BIRD.

To General Sir Robert Fletcher.

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Extract of General Letter from George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Eſquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, and George Mackay, Eſquires; dated Fort St. George, 24th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Par. 3. With reſpect to Tanjore, a fortreſs which we conſider, from its ſituation and other circumſtances, of the utmoſt importance, we [illegible] leave to

to refer your Honours to the Minutes of Conſultation, to ſhew you that we had no information of any kind reſpecting the works, military ſtores, or magazines, during the government of Lord Pigot; we were even told that all the cannon had been carried off by the Nabob's orders, though upwards of one hundred have been ſince returned to us; we are therefore to inform your Honours, that all thoſe matters have come under our conſideration, as will appear by the returns of guns, ſtores, ammunition, and proviſion, that now wait on you numbers in the packet.

4. Being deſirous of getting every information relative to this fortreſs, we called upon Major Stevens to ſtate to the Chief Engineer in a memorial what was neceſſary to be done; a copy of which comes a number ‡ in the Packet. We have alſo appointed an Engineer and Aſſiſtant to reſide at Tanjore, from whom we have received the moſt uſeful lights to guide us in our conduct. We ſhall only here obſerve, that our views will be confined to render it one of the ſtrongeſt country forts in the Carnatic; and this we are adviſed may be done with little expenſe: we ſhall alſo order proviſion to be made of faſcines and gabions at Tanjore for the temporary repairs, in caſe of any ſudden emergency; a precaution that in our opinion ought ever to be taken in fortified places.

5. We have the pleaſure to acquaint you, that the Nabob has punctually performed the engagements he entered into for the payment of 8,71,666 pagodas, 24 fanams, from 1ſt May 1775 to the 30th of April laſt; and that Kiſts have been ſettled for the monthly current expenſes on his account.

6. In the courſe of this year the Nabob has paid to his private creditors dividends to the amount of 20 per cent. and we have reaſon to think, if peace continue in the Carnatic, that the whole of the debts will ſoon be diſcharged.

10. We received application from Captain Robert Wood, late Town Major, for leave to reſign your ſervice; we declined at the time accepting of his commiſſion, but permitted him to go to England; Lord Pigot has ſince deſired he may be permitted to carry his diſpatches, and he accordingly proceed upon the Grenville.

† See Vol. I. page 544.

14. As

14. As we were closing this dispatch, an affair was communicated to us by Sir Edward Hughes, which, from the justice we think due to the character of the Nabob's family, and in order to prevent, as far as we can, the bad effects of an iniquitous design in prejudicing the opinion of the public, we think it necessary to animadvert on at large.

15. On the 16th of this month Sir Edward Hughes wrote us a letter, representing that Lord Pigot had again claimed the protection of his flag, in consequence of an affidavit of one William Randall, which declared, that there had been a design against his Lordship's life; a copy of the affidavit was likewise enclosed to us, and it goes a number in the packet. On the evening of the same day we received a letter from the Nabob, representing, in very strong terms, that Sir Edward Hughes having communicated to him the affidavit of the above-mentioned William Randall, by which the honour of his son Ameer ul Omrah, and of course of his whole family, was so iniquitously impeached, he desired that we should immediately seize the person of William Randall, as many Europeans and others in his service could prove him a bad man, and guilty of the basest acts of imposition, such as forging letters from Lord North and Mr. Robinson, and that his affidavit was dictated by revenge and wickedness, in consequence of dismission from his service.

16. Though, from the first perusal of the affidavit, we could not but observe how strongly it marked the principles and designs of the author, and though, from the Nabob's information, we might think ourselves justified as a Government to take cognizance of the information; yet the weight which Lord Pigot seemed to rest upon it, by his complaint to Sir Edward Hughes, and the delicacy with which we ever wish to proceed in matters that regard personal justice, these considerations prevented our giving the Nabob the satisfaction he required.

17. We have since received a second letter from the Nabob on the subject, enclosing several affidavits of Europeans and others taken before the Mayor, which carry proofs of the infamy of the accuser, and the very iniquitous injustice of the accusation; we likewise transmit your Honours copies of those affidavits. Sir Robert Fletcher has informed us that Mr. Randall came to India in the same ship with him last year; and he has made a declaration before us, which strongly marks the character of Mr. Randall as an impostor, and which tends no less to distinguish the [illegible] of his talent

talent at miſchievous fiction, than the baſeneſs of his principles. The purport of Sir Robert's declaration is, that ſome time after they had been on board of the Saliſbury, Mr. Randall addreſſed him a letter, in which he ſet forth, that notwithſtanding appearances, he was ſent out and employed by high authority at home, to execute ſecret ſervices at the different Preſidencies; and he added, that he could be of great ſervice to Sir Robert, if he would then engage him in his intereſt. Sir Robert obſerves further, that he mentioned the receipt of this letter to a Mr. Bird, Surgeon of the Saliſbury, who remembers that Sir Robert expreſſed his aſtoniſhment at the contents of it, and wiſhed to know his opinion of the man. Mr. Bird's letter to Sir Robert on this ſubject is a number in the Packet.

18. But what appears to us to ſet the falſity and villainy of Mr. Randall's information againſt Ameer ul Omrah in the cleareſt point of view is the affidavit itſelf, by which he would make it appear, that he was poſſeſſed of the ſecret of a deſign againſt Lord Pigot's life, and yet concealed the intention for more than eight months; nor did he ever communicate the deſign till he was diſmiſſed the ſervice of the Nabob, and 'till his Lordſhip was out of reach of all danger. He ſwears expreſsly, that Ameer ul Omrah told him, "That he had or would engage one Comrah, a Dubaſh, "to kill the ſaid Lord Pigot, by cauſing poiſon to be put in his food;" and yet, notwithſtanding this pretended knowledge of a felonious deſign to poiſon Lord Pigot, he concealed that knowledge from his Lordſhip; ſo that by the ſame oath with which he would eſtabliſh the belief of the felonious deſign to take away the life of his Lordſhip, he proves himſelf guilty of miſpriſion of a felonious intention, by not diſcovering it immediately ſo as to endeavour to prevent it. In another part of his affidavit he ſays, that from a converſation which paſſed between him and Comrah, he is convinced that Comrah was privy to the deſign of poiſoning his Lordſhip; and yet Mr. Randall made then no diſcovery.

19. We would not dwell ſo long on this ſubject, did we not feel ſo ſenſibly in our own breaſts the perfect atrociouſneſs of an attempt to fix at this time, without evidence, ſo unmerited, and ſo heinous a charge, upon any of the Nabob's family, *a family diſtinguiſhed amongſt the princes of India for an abhorrence of ſuch wickedneſs.* If it were even admitted, contrary to truth, and the experience on which that truth is founded, that ſuch an inhuman impreſſion could ever poſſeſs the mind of the Nabob's ſon; is there

a perſon the leaſt verſed in the cuſtoms and manners of this country, who can imagine, that the execution of ſuch a work would be truſted to an European? or that the deſign would be communicated and the execution delayed for nine months? or that an European, with whom ſuch a ſecret was lodged, would be diſmiſſed with diſgrace, ſo as to provoke him to diſcovery? But theſe are circumſtances which ſhock belief, and it is impoſſible to explode, with too much ſeverity, an accuſation, ſo baneful to the peace and honour of an individual, and that might, in its conſequences, prove ſo hurtful to the public repoſe.

20. We have only further to obſerve to your Honours, that we will endeavour to give the Nabob every ſatisfaction in our power; and at the ſame time to requeſt you will be pleaſed to give every attention to the papers in the packet on this ſubject, and particularly to the depoſition of Moodie Kiſtnah, who ſwears that Mr. Randall threatened Ameer ul Omrah, if he did not give him a ſum of money, to ruin his reputation and character, as well in Europe as in the Carnatic.

21. Colonel Capper having requeſted our permiſſion to go to England for a ſhort time to ſettle his private family concerns, we have complied with his requeſt. From the good opinion we entertain of this gentleman, we have thought him a very proper perſon to be charged with our diſpatches to your Honours by his Majeſty's ſhip the Swallow to Suez, from whence he will proceed over land; having ſignified this to Colonel Capper, he very readily offered his ſervices on this occaſion; we beg leave ſtrongly to recommend him to you, and to requeſt you will permit him to return to the important ſtation he holds in your ſervice.

22. Mr. James Dighton, a gentleman of good character and abilities, having heard of our intention to ſend a packet to your Honours over-land, voluntarily offered himſelf to accompany Colonel Capper, and we have accordingly accepted of his ſervices, to guard againſt any accident that may happen to our packet, in caſe of the death or indiſpoſition of Colonel Capper.

23. We hope your Honours will allow us to recommend this gentleman to you, being convinced, from the knowledge he has obtained of the Perſian

ſian and other Eaſtern languages, that he may be a very uſeful ſervant to you at this Preſidency.

We are,

HONOURABLE,

Fort St. George,
24th September, 1776.

Your faithful humble ſervants,

GEO. STRATTON,
HENRY BROOKE,
ROB. FLETCHER,
CHARLES FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
GEO. MACKAY.

Extract of Letter from Lord Pigot to the Court of Directors, dated St. Thomas's Mount, 26th September, 1776,

Received over-land by Mr. Dalrymple, the 20th April, 1777.

7. There comes a number in the packet the affidavit of Mr. Randall, an officer in the Nabob's ſervice; he was a ſtranger to me till the day he gave that affidavit, but having ſacrificed his views in this country, he goes a paſſenger on the Grenville, and I beg leave to recommend him to your notice. Great pains have been taken to invalidate this gentleman's affidavit; amongſt the reſt, much ſtreſs has been laid on a loan of ſix hundred pagodas, made him by Mr. Monckton a few days after the affidavit was made, who on this occaſion has thought it neceſſary to make a depoſition of all the circumſtances relating to it, which comes alſo a number in the packet.

8. Major Horne, by order of the gentlemen in the fort, having informed me, that many of the Company's ſervants whom I thought proper might go to England with my diſpatches for your Honours, I made choice of Captain Wood,

Wood, the Town Major, who will deliver you this letter. This gentleman has ever conducted himself much to my ſatisfaction; but his ſpirited and proper conduct on the parade the night Colonel Stuart made me a priſoner, well entitles him to your particular favour. I have engaged to pay Captain Abercromby eight hundred pounds for the paſſengers I have put on board his ſhip, and I hope your Honours will pleaſe to diſcharge the ſame.

9. Sir Edward Hughes purpoſing to ſend the Swallow ſloop of war to Suez about the 2d or 3d. of the next month it appearing to me and the other gentlemen of the Council ſo eſſential, that you ſhould not only have the earlieſt intelligence, but the fulleſt information of the ſituation of your affairs, that we would not avoid deſiring Mr. Dalrymple to proceed that way to England, which he will do accordingly.

I am,

HONOURABLE,

St. Thomas's Mount,
26th September, 1776.

Your faithful humble ſervant,

PIGOT.

Copy of Mr. Randall's Affidavit, as communicated by the Majority, is entered on Conſultation the 19th September, 1776, folio 593; but in the Copy tranſmitted by Lord Pigot, after the words, ["That the deponent "had always intentions of making this depoſition," is the following paragraph.]

The deponent further maketh oath, and ſays, that the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah has often engaged the ſaid deponent to go to England by the ſhips of this ſeaſon, and within theſe twelve days paſt ordered the deponent to take a paſſage on the ſhip Grenville, for the purpoſe of expoſing to the Engliſh Nation the weakneſs of his elder brother, commonly called Omdat ul Omrah; ſaying to the deponent, he, the Ameer ul Omrah, was fit only

to

to ſucceed his father, the Nabob Mahomed Ali Cawn, in the government of the Carnatick; and that the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah has often declared his brother Omdat ul Omrah was a rogue, that the Tinnevelly, or ſome other country, was ſufficient for him to command; and at the ſame time the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah declared to the deponent, that his elder brother was a beaſt, and (to uſe his own words) "my brother lay with man and dog."

Madraſs, 15th September, 1776.

(Signed)

WILLIAM RANDALL.

Sworn before me,

(Signed)

JOHN TURING, Mayor.

Encloſure in Mr. DALRYMPLE's Packet.

Received over-land, 20th April, 1777.

The Depoſition of EDWARD MONCKTON.

I Edward Monckton make oath and ſay, that upon my arrival at the houſe my family lives in at the Mount, on Sunday the 15th September, 1776, at a little after one o'clock (it being my practice ever ſince the confinement of Lord Pigot to go to Choultry Plain in the morning, and return at noon) I found the company aſſembled in the hall, waiting for dinner, and among the reſt I obſerved Capt. Randall. I had dined in the company of that Gentleman once at Mr. Oakeley's upon his firſt arrival in India, about fifteen or ſixteen months ago; but as I did not remember to have been in his company either before or ſince that time, I imagined that he had been to ſee Lord Pigot, and invited by him to dine with us; and I entered into a general converſation with him and the reſt of the company, 'till he had an opportunity of taking me aſide, when he informed

formed me, that he had juſt been with Lord Pigot, and informed him of his having ſomething of a very black nature to communicate; that his Lordſhip had referred him to me. He then pulled out of his pocket a paper, and gave it to me, and declared, that he was ready to go immediately to Mr. Stratton, and make oath to the truth of it; and then, in the moſt publick manner, delivered a copy of it to Sir Edward Hughes. I told him, that I much doubted of the legality of an oath taken before him, as I did not imagine that he was properly authorized to adminiſter an oath; that the Mayor appeared to me to be the only perſon now that could with propriety take depoſitions; he thereupon told me, that he would go before him that afternoon.: we were then called to dinner, and after dinner I deſired him to let Mr. Ruſſell ſee the paper, which he readily did. Mr. Ruſſell, after reading it, took me aſide, and told me that he wiſhed that Mr. Randall had been more definite with reſpect to time. I ſet forth to him the great impropriety in our interfering in the leaſt; to which he acquieſced, and Mr. Randall took leave of us. The next morning, I believe about ten o'clock, Mr. Randall came to me at my houſe in Choultry Plain, and put into my hand the ſame paper properly atteſted, and told me that he had been been before the Mayor the evening before, and had ſworn to the truth of it: he then ſet forth to me, that he had juſt reſigned the Nabob's ſervice, and, as he had of his own free-will ſtood forth, he hoped his Lordſhip would befriend him, if, upon enquiry, he ſhould find him deſerving; and that Lord Pigot would make uſe of his intereſt with Capt. Abercromby, of the ſhip Grenville, to procure him a paſſage to England. The ſame afternoon he went out to ſee Lord Pigot, and his Lordſhip not only promiſed to procure him a paſſage, but alſo to give him a letter to the Chairman of the Directors.

The 19th I received the following Letter from him.

DEAR SIR,

I beg you will preſent the encloſed to Lord Pigot; it is to requeſt, that Lord Pigot will recommend me generally to the protection of the Directors in his Letter, and that he will be pleaſed to give me another

Letter,

Letter, addreſſed to them, to prove my identity. It is very painful to me to be under the neceſſity of aſking of you *the loan of ſix hundred pagodas*; I will moſt certainly repay you that ſum on my return, and to-morrow I intend to pay my compliments to his Lordſhip.

I am, DEAR SIR,

Your obedient humble ſervant,

St. Thomé, 19th.

W. RANDALL.

Pray trouble yourſelf to ſeal the encloſed; I have no materials within reach.

My anſwer on a ſcrap of paper was as follows.

DEAR SIR,

I will do the needful for you, and as ſoon I can ſcrape together the money you want, you ſhall have it.

I am your moſt obedient,

EDWD. MONCKTON.

Sunday following, having got together the money, I wrote him on another ſcrap of paper the following note.

DEAR SIR,

You may have the money when you will pleaſe to ſend for it. Lord Pigot has ſpoke to Capt. Abercromby about your paſſage. I am

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

EDWD. MONCKTON.

And

And the next morning he ſent his Dubaſh with his compliments, and the following receipt, and received from my people 600 pagodas.

" I promiſe to pay to the Honourable Edward Monckton, or order " the ſum of ſix hundred pagodas, value received.

" WM. RANDALL."

" Madraſs, September 23d, 1776."

I further do declare, that I never had any intercourſe, either directly or indirectly, with Mr. Randall; neither do I believe any of Lord Pigot's friends had before Sunday the 15th September, 1776, when he ſhewed us the paper that he afterwards depoſed to; neither has he ever had any ſum of money to my knowledge either promiſed or given him.

(Signed) ED. MONCKTON.

Sworn to in Court, this
26th Day of September 1776.

(Signed) JAMES TAYLOR,
REGISTER.

Encloſure in Mr. DALRYMPLE's Packet.

Received over-land, 20th April, 1777.

The Information of CLAUD RUSSELL, Eſq.

This informant ſaith, that on Sunday the 25th, being at the Mount, Major Horne, Commanding Officer there, gave him to peruſe an order he (the Major) had received that morning, ſigned George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay; and that the laſt paragraph of the ſaid order was in theſe words: " *As the laſt reſource, in caſe of an attempt to reſcue* " *Lord Pigot, his life muſt anſwer it; and this you will ſignify to him.*"

This

This informant further ſaith, that the ſame order was ſome days afterwards produced to Sir Edward Hughes, the Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's Ships in India, in preſence of Lord Pigot, the Honourable Edward Monckton, Alexander Dalrymple, and this informant.

Madraſs,
31ſt Auguſt, 1776.

Sworn to before me,

(Signed) JOHN TURING,

MAYOR.

Encloſure in Mr. DALRYMPLE's Packet.

Received over-land, 20th April, 1777.

On Saturday the 24th inſtant, between eight and nine o'clock at night, intelligence having been brought to the Governor's Garden-houſe, where I then was, that Lord Pigot had been carried off a priſoner to the Mount, I immediately haſtened to the fort, accompanied by J. M. Stone, Eſq. where I found the town in confuſion, and was told, that Mr. Stratton and Sir Robert Fletcher, with others, had taken poſſeſſion of the Council-Room. On drawing near the Parade, it being moon-light, I obſerved it was crowded with officers and others, as well Europeans as Blacks, and a number of carriages at the Fort Square Gate. Meeting ſoon afterwards with the Fort Major, Capt. Wood, he informed me that thoſe Gentlemen had declared themſelves the Adminiſtration, and that he had been ſent to the Main Guard for endeavouring to keep the troops to their duty. I then directed Lieutenant Pendergaſt, the Fort-Adjutant, who had juſt joined me, to go to the Officer of the Main Guard (Capt. Adair) and tell him that it was my orders, in the abſence of Lord Pigot, to have his men ſtand immediately to their arms; but obſerving that he (Capt. Adair) heſitated, I went myſelf to him, and repeated my orders in perſon; telling him, that he ſhould reflect on the conſequences of a refuſal, as in the abſence

of Lord Pigot, whoſe guard he commanded, I muſt be conſidered his commanding officer. He (Captain Adair) ſtill heſitated, and muttering ſomething about the Commander in Chief, I aſked him, if he had received any contradictory orders from the Commander in Chief, and by whom they were delivered; Captain Adair replied, in a confuſed manner, that Colonel Stuart had *delivered him orders*. During this a crowd of Officers had aſſembled around us, and on my inſiſting with Captain Adair that my orders ſhould be complied with, Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Adjutant-General, and Captain Barclay, came up to me, and, with great profeſſions of reſpect for my perſon, recommended to me as moſt prudent to go to my houſe. I told them my duty called me where I was, or words to that effect; and in the mean while, whether by Captain Adair's orders or not I do not know, great part of the guard ſtood to their arms; and as I was advancing to get in front of them, Colonel Stuart came up to me ſeemingly much agitated, ſaying, you muſt go with me *to* Council, or *before* Council: my anſwer was, that I was not under his orders, but that he at that time was under mine, and that I ſhould certainly not go where he directed, or words to that effect. Colonel Stuart upon this ſeized me by the breaſt of my coat, calling out for *Orderlies*; at the ſame time Lieutenant-Colonel Edington and Captain Barclay each ſeized me by an arm, and theſe Gentlemen were forcibly dragging me along, when I called to the Captain of the Main Guard for aſſiſtance, but in vain, though I did obſerve ſeveral of the Grenadiers advance from the ranks towards us, which ſeemed to alarm Colonel Stuart ſo much, that he quitted his hold of me, and run back to puſh them into the ranks with oaths and threats. After effecting this, he (Colonel Stuart) returned to aſſiſt Colonel Edington and Captain Barclay, by laying hold of my wriſt, and calling for an orderly Serjeant to puſh me behind. Continuing to make all the reſiſtance in my power, I was by main force dragged by Colonel Stuart, Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, and Captain Barclay, with the aſſiſtance of the orderly Serjeant, to the Council Room, where were ſitting George Stratton, Eſquire, Sir Robert Fletcher, Francis Jourdan, George Mackay, Charles Floyer, Henry Brooke, and Archdale Palmer, Eſquires, and Mr. Henry Norris attending. Colonel Stuart led me in by the arm, and ſhutting the door, he addreſſed himſelf to the above Gentlemen, ſaying, that I had ſo ſtrong an arm, that he was out of breath, and muſt beg time to recover it before he could explain the cauſe of my being before them. Upon this I required to know whether I was a priſoner or not; Sir Robert Fletcher (I think it was) anſwered, that I was not a priſoner; and I was therefore going to retire,

but

but upon opening the door, Colonel Stuart run up to me, and flapped it to. Upon my repreſenting the indecency of this behaviour to Mr. Stratton, who ſeemed to be the Preſident, the Colonel pleaded in excuſe, that he wiſhed me to be preſent while he related to the Council (for ſuch he called them) what had paſſed. He (Colonel Stuart) then dictated, while Mr. Jourdan minuted a declamation about my exciting mutiny, and related the circumſtances of his ſeizing me with tolerable accuracy, that he makes no mention of the violent and powerful aſſiſtance given him by Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Captain Barclay, and the Orderly. When the Colonel had finiſhed, Mr. Stratton aſked what I had to ſay in anſwer; to which I replied, that I denied their authority, and ſhould ſay nothing, or words to that effect. Mr. Mackay and Mr. Jourdan then went round to the oppoſite ſide of the table, and after ſome converſation with Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Floyer, Sir Robert propoſed, before I ſhould retire, that a Letter, which would ſhortly be ſent me, might be read to me; but this I objected to, declaring that I would not liſten to any thing at that Board, whoſe authority I denied. Mr. Stratton, however, riſing up, began to read a paper, ſuppoſed to be the Letter in queſtion, but ſtopped, upon my calling to him by name, that I would not hear him. Sir Robert then moved, that the contents ſhould be told me, which Mr. Stratton then declared to be, that they had ſuſpended me the Company's Service; and orders were given, in my hearing, to Colonel Stuart, to declare the ſame immediately on the Parade: I thereupon retired, and immediately returned to the Governor's Gardens.

CLAUD RUSSELL.

Madraſs, 31ſt Auguſt, 1776.

Sworn to before me,

(Signed) JOHN TURING,

MAYOR.

Letter

Letter from Lord Pigot to the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, dated at St. Thomas's Mount, 29th Auguſt, 1776.

Received over-land by Mr. Dalrymple, 20th April, 1777.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor-General, &c. Council, of Bengal.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Major Horne having this afternoon received permiſſion for me to write to you in his preſence, I think it proper to acquaint your Honour, &c. that having found it expedient, with the advice of my Council, to order Sir Robert Fletcher under arreſt, for being concerned in circulating in the garriſon letters of a ſeditious nature, Colonel James Stuart, the next officer in rank, was appointed to the chief command of the troops. This Officer, who dined with me in the Fort at his own deſire, was invited by me to ſupper at the Company's Garden Houſe; which invitation he accepted, and at the ſame time acquainting me that he had no conveyance, requeſted I would take him with me in my chaiſe. I that afternoon deſired the Gentlemen of Council to meet me in the Fort, and I directed the Secretary to write to Colonel Stuart alſo to attend, where I ſhewed him the Commiſſion of Government; and he then declared, upon his honour, that he would that night iſſue to the out-garriſons the general orders of Sir Robert Fletcher's being under arreſt, if the Tappies were detained, and they were detained accordingly.

I then took Colonel Stuart into my chaiſe, and when I was upon the iſland, ſomething more than half a mile from the Fort, my horſes were ſtopped by Colonel Edington, the Adjutant-General, with a party of Seapoys; at this inſtant of time Captain Lyſaught preſented himſelf at that ſide of my chaiſe on which I was with a piſtol in his hand, and Colonel Stuart ſeizing me by the arm, ſaid, "Go out, Sir," and delivered me to the charge of Captain Lyſaught, who conducted me to a poſt-chaiſe, and brought me priſoner to the Mount, where I was delivered into the cuſtody of Major Horne, who at the ſame time received from Captain Lyſaught the accompanying orders, which are the only orders Major Horne acquaints me he has liberty to give me a copy of.

I remained in this confinement, from the Saturday night, the 24th Auguſt, to Tueſday the 27th, when, between eleven and twelve at night, Colonel Edington arrived with freſh orders for my removal; I will leave other men to ſay how patiently I bore my confinement, and with what propriety I conducted myſelf upon Colonel Edington's refuſing to ſhew his orders, or to make known to me whither he was to conduct me. I thought it neceſſary to declare, that I would not truſt myſelf with a traitor, who had made me priſoner, and that I would reſiſt whilſt life remained in me. Major Horne's prudence, and Colonel Edington's reflection, ſtopt this violence proceeding further; and receiving a viſit from Sir Edward Hughes in the morning, I thought it prudent to demand the protection of the King's flag, and Sir Edward Hughes has in conſequence demanded a ſafe conduct for me to his ſhip.

I have recommended to all the civil ſervants of the Company whom I have ſeen, to continue in the execution of their duty to the Company in their ſeveral ſtations.

I am,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

St. Thomas's Mount,
29th Auguſt, 1776.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed)

PIGOT.

General Letter from the Majority of the Council at Fort St. George, dated 26th September, 1776,

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies.

HONOURABLE SIRS,

Par. 1. We this day received a letter from the Nabob, encloſing an affidavit of Samuel Mills, late a Lieutenant in his Highneſs's ſervice, which he has requeſted may be communicated to you.

Par. 2. In our letter of the 24th inſtant, we gave you our ſentiments at large on the ſubject of the depoſition of William Randall; we ſhall therefore confine ourſelves at preſent to an aſſurance to your Honours, that we are firmly perſuaded, not only from the affidavit itſelf, and our knowledge of the Nabob and his family, but likewiſe from the nature of the circumſtances that have ſince been brought to view, that Mr. Randall has been actuated to this conduct by ſuch principles as muſt appear atrocious to the eyes of all mankind. Copies of the Nabob's letter to us of our reply, and of Samuel Mills's depoſition, now wait on your Honours encloſed.

Par. 3. We have given orders to Captain Abercromby, Commander of your Ship the Grenville, not to receive Mr. Randall as paſſenger for England,

land, in order that the Nabob may be enabled to take ſuch further meaſures as the law directs.

We are,

HONOURABLE,

Fort St. George,
26th September, 1776.

Your faithful humble ſervants,

GEO. STRATTON,
HENRY BR' OKE,
ROB. FLETCHER,
CHARLES FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
GEO. MACKAY.

Tranſlate of a Letter from the Nabob to Governor Stratton, dated and received the 26th of September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I have received your letter of the 22d September, in anſwer to two from me; although I am obliged to you for them, yet they are not ſufficiently ſatisfactory, conſidering the attention that is due to my honour and the honour of my family. Yourſelf, and the Gentlemen of Council, are the Managers here on the part of the Company; and I, who am the friend of the Company and Nation, expect from you juſtice, and ſupport of my honour and rights. Nothing but the puniſhment of Mr. Randall for his perjury, and the groſs ſlander he has thrown on me and my family, will be a ſufficient ſatisfaction to me. What can be a ſtronger proof of the truth of what I wrote to you regarding the villainy of Mr. Randall, than the affidavits of Engliſh gentlemen which I ſent to you? I intreat you to write theſe circumſtances to the Court of Directors, and if the packet ſhould be cloſed, that you will write them a ſeparate letter. Although Mr. Randall's falſhood is evident on proof to all the Engliſh gentlemen at this place, yet there remains for me to have ſatisfaction in the manner I have written above. What can I ſay more?

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Letter

Letter to the Nabob, dated Fort St. George, 26th September, 1776,

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To the NABOB.

I have had the honour to receive your Highneſs's letter of this day's date, encloſing me an affidavit of Samuel Mills, late Lieutenant in your Highneſs's ſervice, ſworn to before Mr. John Turing, Mayor of Madraſs.

The ſentiments we have already expreſſed to the Company on the very extraordinary depoſition of William Randall, and the diſbelief which, from a perfect knowledge of your Highneſs and family, we naturally gave to that depoſition, would, I am convinced, be a poſitive certainty to your Highneſs, that the Council and I conceived that act to have proceeded from the baſeſt motives. But as your Highneſs has been pleaſed to communicate to me the declaration of Samuel Mills, I ſhall, agreeably to your deſire, tranſmit a copy of it to the Company, who, I need not aſſure your Highneſs, are ever anxious and ever will exert themſelves in the ſupport of the honour and dignity of your Highneſs, and that of your family.

I have given orders to Captain Abercromby, Commander of the Company's ſhip Grenville, not to receive Mr. Randall as paſſenger for England, in order that your Highneſs may take ſuch further meaſures as you may deem expedient on this occaſion.

(A true Copy)

Fort St. George,
26th September, 1776.

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depoſition

Depoſition of SAMUEL MILLS.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I Samuel Mills, late Lieutenant in the ſervice of his Highneſs the Nabob of the Carnatic, depoſe, that Mr. William Randall, late Captain in the ſaid ſervice, lived with me three months and upwards. That he, the ſaid William Randall, came home one night, about the 15th of September, inſtant, ſeemingly very much vexed and diſturbed in his mind, which he the ſaid Randall ſaid was occaſioned by the Nabob not giving him money; he walked ſeveral times backwards and forwards in the room, and ſaid, no honeſt man could live in this country; that it was to make money that every one came to this country, and that he would have his ſhare of it ſomehow or other; he likewiſe ſaid, that he had a very good head for forming, and that he would do ſomething that would make his fortune, and that if it was in his power he would hang the Nabob, meaning, as this deponent believes, Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Behauder. This deponent ſaith, that the next morning at breakfaſt the ſaid Randall wrote a paper, which he carried out of the houſe, and ſaid he was taking it to Lord Pigot; he brought it back in the evening, and ſaid he would carry it to John Turing. I ſaw it the next morning with the words at the bottom (as near as I can recollect) Sworn before me, John Turing.—— I aſked the ſaid Randall what the paper meaned, and he anſwered, ſomething that would make his fortune; he then ſhewed me the contents, which much ſurprized me. I went that morning to the Nabob's, Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder, to acquaint him with what I had ſeen and heard, but could not be admitted to his preſence 'till the 23d inſtant. This Deponent ſaith, that between the 17th and 23d inſtant, the ſaid Randall received three chits or notes from Mr. Monckton; that this Deponent was at home when they were brought for the ſaid Randall; and as there was not any one of them ſealed,

he took the liberty of reading them. The firſt was, as near as this Deponent recollects,—You ſhall have the needful, and as ſoon as I can ſcrape the money together, you ſhall have it:—the ſecond,—The money is ready whenever you chuſe to ſend for it, and we ſhall be glad to ſee you at the Mount;—the third,—We ſhall be glad to ſee you in the morning at the Mount; Lord Pigot has ſpoken to Captain Abercromby about your paſſage. This Deponent ſaith, that Mr. Randall told him that he ſhould come out again to India in eleven months with his fortune made, and that he would be in the civil line. This Deponent ſaith, that his wife informed him that ſaid Randall's Dubaſh brought ſome money to him.

SAMUEL MILLS.

Sworn to, this 25th September, 1776,
before me,

JOHN TURING,
Mayor of Madraſs.

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

DISSENT

DISSENT

Of one of the Aldermen of the Mayor's Court at Madraſs (Mr. George Smith) to the reconſidered Reſolution of the Court, delivered on Monday the 2d of September 1776, by a majority of 7 voices to 2, that the Court had not the authority of granting a Writ of Habeas Corpus, after it had been determined two days before, by 6 voices to 3, that ſuch authority was veſted in the Court; and in conſequence thereof it was the public opinion, that the Court (which had met by adjournment on the 2d) would iſſue the Writ.

N.B. The Writ had been applied for on the Petition of the Governor, Lord Pigot, who had been ſeized by a military force, and detained a priſoner under the ſame force at St. Thomas's Mount.

I diſſent, becauſe the Habeas Corpus Act does expreſsly direct to bring, or to be brought, the body of the party ſo illegally committed, or reſtrained, unto or before Judges of the *Court, from which the ſaid Writ ſhall iſſue*, or ſuch other *perſons* before whom the ſaid Writ is made *returnable*, according to the command thereof.

Becauſe I underſtand that the Supreme Court at Calcutta have always exerciſed the power of granting this Writ (for the relief of oppreſſed ſubjects in thoſe provinces, and in furtherance of juſtice) though, on the peruſal of their charter, I do not find that the authority for ſo doing is thereby expreſsly granted, but am ſenſible that the ſame is ſufficiently implied.

Becauſe I do not find in his Majeſty's charter, by which this Court is eſtabliſhed, or in the Book of Inſtructions which accompanied the ſame, any prohibition to this Court's granting a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

Becauſe this Court, as I conceive, was inſtituted to grant relief to all ſuitors, eſpecially Britiſh ſubjects in all civil cauſes, whether for the recovery of debts, or reparation of damages to parties injured in their property, liberty, or reputations.

Becauſe,

Becauſe the late Act of Parliament, for the better regulation of the affairs of the Eaſt-India Company, does in ſeveral clauſes give very direct and important powers to this Court for the relief of the Company, and for bringing all ſuch perſons as are therein ſpecified, to an account and to judgment, who ſhall or may be charged with ſuch offences as are by the Act prohibited.

Becauſe it appears to me but too evident, that the authority and juſtice of this Court may be eaſily fruſtrated and deluded, and the good intentions of the legiſlative authority, of the Crown, and of the Company, may eaſily be evaded, and the Act of Parliament, as well as the Charter itſelf, in many caſes, become a dead letter, Vox et præterea nihil, if the Court has not the authority of granting Writs of Habeas Corpus, for the relief of ſuch parties and witneſſes as may be kept under reſtraint and confinement, by means which no authority leſs than his Majeſty's Court of Record can remove.

Becauſe, therefore, the authority of granting the Writ in queſtion appears to me as incident to the conſtitution of this Court, for the due and effectual execution of the important ends for which it was appointed, the uninterrupted operation of which alone it is that will render it a bleſſing to theſe Settlements, as it ought to be.

Becauſe, in many branches, the proceſs which iſſues out of this Court, and has iſſued time out of mind (as well as out of the Mayor's Court at Calcutta, and at Bombay) is not authorized by any expreſs words in the Charter, but has been adopted as a neceſſary and legal relief to the Suitors, particularly in granting warrants for the ſeizure of perſons and effects upon the ſea, and in any river which is a road, ſtead, or harbour, or any part thereof (and which in England belongs to the Court of Admiralty alone) has never been called in queſtion, or if it has, the conduct of theſe Courts has been confirmed, though the authority in this inſtance is no more expreſſed in the Charter than it is in the caſe of a Habeas Corpus.

Becauſe all the books of authority which I have had an opportunity of conſulting, as far as the ſhortneſs of the time would permit me, Judge Blackſtone, Serjeant Hawkins, and ſome others, ſpeak of this Writ as a conſtitutional Writ, the great conſtitutional remedy to poor and rich; a Writ of Right, which may not be denied, and to which the ſubject is entitled, ex debito juſtitiæ, grantable of common right to every man that is committed, or detained in

priſon,

prii , or otherwiſe reſtrained, though it be by command of the King, the Privy Council, or any other, as the moſt uſual remedy by which a man is reſtored to his liberty ; for that the King (by his Courts) is at all times entitled to have an account why the liberty of any of his ſubjects is reſtrained, wherever that reſtraint may be inflicted.

Becauſe it appears to me, that the refuſal of this Writ (at the ſame time that it inflicts a heavy fine, no leſs than 500 l. on every Judge who refuſes it, in caſe he is empowered to grant it, as I think that this Court is, at the ſame time that it tends to defeat and render abortive the courſe of juſtice, in reſpect to the cauſes of which the Court has cognizance) may totally diſable the party applying for it to ſhew, either here or any where elſe, or to any higher Tribunal, whether there has not been a flagrant abuſe of power (as is indeed ſtrongly ſet forth in the Petition of the preſent Right Honourable Suitor) and whether that power has not been exerciſed in a manner totally repugnant to law and liberty.

Becauſe with me, and I believe with many others, it is at leaſt become a matter of doubt, from the very matter ſet forth in the Petition, and more particularly from the public acts which have followed the violences therein ſet forth, whether there does exiſt any other legal and regular authority or juriſdiction in this Settlement, from which relief can be obtained in the matter complained of, or in any the like caſes; and that therefore the effect of this Court's refuſal will produce a failure of juſtice, which in any the ſmalleſt caſe, and to the pooreſt ſubject, ſhould in my opinion be moſt carefully avoided ; and rather than conſent to ſo deplorable a ſituation, I make no difficulty in declaring, that the Court, not ſo well informed, I readily confeſs, in regard to the expreſs letter of the law, but guided by the rules and principles of juſtice, in this exerciſe of their judgment, ſhould adopt that courſe which tends to the relief of the ſubject, and take upon themſelves the hazard of its being found erroneous, rather than fall into the ſtill greater error (as I well believe it is) of refuſing that relief, to which, in my opinion, every ſuitor of this Court is entitled ; and if this opinion ſhould hereafter be found erroneous, I have no doubt but that thoſe, whoſe profeſſion it is to form a better judgment in the caſe, will join with Sir Elijah Impey, in the report which he was pleaſed to give of the proceedings of the Mayor's Court at that place (in his ſpeech to the firſt Grand Jury, which he had occaſion to addreſs at Calcutta) that though their proceedings had ſometimes appeared to him a deviation from the courſe of adminiſtering juſtice, (which proceeded from the laudable motives of an eaſier and more ſpeedy redreſs) it was no deviation from juſtice itſelf.

And becauſe of theſe reaſons, and in conformity to the oath of an Alderman of this Court, which I have taken, "To do right to all manner of peo-"ple, poor and rich, without fear or favour, according to the beſt of my "knowledge," I beg leave to diſſent to the Reſolution of this Court of to-day.

(Signed)

GEO. SMITH.

Copy of a Letter from Lord Pigot to Sir Edward Hughes, Knight, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's Ships in the Eaſt-Indies.

Received over-land by Mr. Dalrymple, 20th April, 1777.

SIR,

I have read with great attention the extraordinary letter to you from Mr. Stratton, &c. dated the 4th of this month; and as I am perſuaded your reply was very proper, I will preſume to aſk a copy thereof.

I muſt at this time take the liberty to repeat to you how eſſentially neceſſary it is that I ſhould be releaſed from the confinement I am under, as the ſecond day in the next month is the day appointed by myſelf, and the reſt of his Majeſty's Juſtices, at the laſt Seſſions of the Peace, Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery, held at Fort St. George on the 3d day of July laſt, and intimated in the precepts which were then directed to the Sheriff for ſummoning a Grand and Petty Jury to attend the Quarterly Court of the ſame Criminal Juriſdiction, appointed to be held by myſelf and others his Majeſty's Juſtices on the ſecond day of October next enſuing, as is expreſſed in the precepts ſo iſſued.

In making this repreſentation to you, Sir, who are honoured with a Commiſſion from his Majeſty, for the expreſs purpoſe of aiding and aſſiſting the Eaſt-India Company, I have theſe very ſerious and important conſiderations in my mind; the indiſpenſable obligation which I lay under, by the oaths of my allegiance and of my office, for the due and faithful execution of juſtice, as Preſident of the Criminal Courts conſtituted by the Royal Charter for the benefit of the Company's Settlements upon this Coaſt, and which expreſly directs, that Quarter Seſſions of the Peace ſhall be held four times in the year, which ſhall alſo be a Court of Record, in the nature of a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery, whereof the Governor or Preſident of Fort St. George, or, in his abſence, the Senior of the Council there reſiding, is expreſsly directed to be one.

The

The great hazard which may, and I apprehend will ariſe to the public, and the Eaſt-India Company, of a forfeiture of the Charter of Juſtice, for the due execution of which, if I do not forget, the Eaſt-India Company have pledged themſelves to his Majeſty, by an indenture duly executed by them, and entered of record in his courts at Weſtminſter, upon their application for the aid and protection of the royal authority to the ſecurity and proſperity of their Settlements, and of the people of the ſeveral nations there reſident; from a failure of which, whether ariſing from a diſregard of the eſſential rules fixt and eſtabliſhed, or other wilful impediment and irregularity, and ſtill more ſo, if, from a total ſubverſion and violent uſurpation of the powers and authority thereby limited and eſtabliſhed, the functions thereof ſhould be aſſumed by perſons who were regularly diſqualified, and have ſince alſo by their own crimes rendered themſelves doubly ſo, and indeed unworthy to execute any of thoſe offices, duties, or functions required by the charter; and laſtly, to prevent the ſtream of public juſtice from being contaminated in the courſe of it's legal and moſt eſſential authority, the criminal juriſdiction, which has been granted to the Eaſt-India Company for the trial and puniſhment of all offenders and offences (high treaſon excepted) had committed or done, or to be had, committed or done, within the town of Madraſs, Fort St George, or within any of the factories or places ſubordinate thereunto; a duty and truſt of ſuch high importance to the lives and liberties of all manner of perſons, poor and rich, that any unauthorized execution thereof cannot be even attempted, without the utmoſt degree of temerity and preſumption; and it is neceſſary to remember, that the leaſt doubt or ſuſpicion of the legality of the proceedings in this high department is ſufficient to impeach the ſame.

Having repreſented this to you, I would have thoſe who may have any intentions of taking upon themſelves what will prove a high exaggeration of the guilt of their precedent conduct and actions, to think ſeriouſly of the conſequences which will befall them, by ſitting in the ſeat of judgment, and deciding on the laws of their country, in caſes of life and liberty, under an authority, the truth and legality of which every man required to appear, either miniſterially or judicially, may claim an undoubted right to queſtion; and every criminal may impeach, even from the very circumſtance of my preſent ſituation, and the attempt made for diſqualifying my brethren, the other juſtices and judges, who, by adhering to their duty to the Eaſt-India Company, as they have done, do juſtly retain the due and legal exerciſe of the authority veſted in the Preſident or Governor and Council of Fort St. George by the royal charter, which repeatedly and clearly directs and enjoins, that the courts of juſtice, civil as well as criminal, which are thereby inſti-

tuted,

tuted, cannot be held without the Preſident or Governor, or, in his abſence, the Senior of the Council then reſident; for the unpeached obſervance of which I will refer you to thoſe perſons themſelves, by whoſe means I am at this time prevented from executing the duty of Preſident and Governor of Fort St. George; and yet, Sir, you will permit me to bring to your remembrance, that in the proclamation, which Mr. George Stratton and others his aſſociates have dared to publiſh and announce, in the name of his Majeſty and the Engliſh Nation, they have had the folly or temerity to appeal to the Royal Charter in ſupport of that reſolution, on which they found their whole conduct in the forming and executing their violent meaſures, "That a majority of the Council have a right to decide all queſtions, "without the concurrence of the Preſident." And as I have no doubt but that I have now ſatisfied you, that the Royal Charter, on the authority of which the legality of the criminal as well as civil juriſdiction alone reſts, and can have any operation. I will not take up more of your time than again to repeat, how eſſential it is for the adminiſtration of publick juſtice, that I myſelf, and the other three Members of the Council, who are upon the ſpot, and legally qualified, ſhould exerciſe the functions which remain veſted in us by the Royal Charter for the adminiſtration of juſtice. I am therefore to requeſt, that you will be pleaſed to remonſtrate to Mr. George Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſrs. Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, who have aſſumed the government of theſe Settlements, and detained my perſon under a ſtrong military guard, to warn them in the moſt ſerious manner, that I do and ſhall hold them, and each of them, anſwerable to the Eaſt-India Company, to publick juſtice, to myſelf, and the other Members of my Council, ſhould any obſtacles ariſing from them, or any of them, prevent me and my brethren, the other juſtices, from the execution of our ſeveral duties and functions.

And further, that ſhould they themſelves preſume, incapacitated as they are, to execute the duties of judges of the criminal courts conſtituted by the Royal Charter, I do and ſhall hold them, and each of them, anſwerable to the Eaſt-India Company and to publick juſtice.

I have the honour to be,

St. Thomas's Mount,
30th September, 1776.

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

† There ſeems to be ſomething wanting in this place to complete the ſenſe, but it is conformable to the copy.

LETTER from George Stratton, Eſq. to John Roberts, Eſq. Chairman of the Court of Directors, dated Fort St. George, 30th September 1776. Received by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper over-land the 2d of April 1777.

SIR,

I WRITE this as an apology in the name of myſelf and the Council, for the length of our public letter by this conveyance, and for the bad arrangement of many of the paragraphs, which was owing to the multiplicity of buſineſs we were engaged in; it was reſolved at one time to alter the whole compoſition in regard to the ſtyle, &c. but we had not time to do this, or make it ſhorter, and we hope you will find patience to wade through much matter, great part of which might have been referred to inſtead of entering ſo minutely on the ſubject. To guide you and the Honorable Court in the reading of the moſt material parts, a paper of reference is encloſed. I am informed that Lord Pigot has wrote to a number of his friends, male and female, appealing to their pity, ſtating that his life is in danger, and his confinement intolerable: I beg, Sir, you will take the trouble to view the Letter from the Board to Major Horne on this ſubject, which will point out the truth; and I muſt alſo aſſure you upon my word of honor, that my daily reports from the Mount tell me he goes where he pleaſes with the officer attending him, ſees his family, and is conſtantly with them the whole day, as well as many ladies and gentlemen from the Fort; that his friends aſſiſt him in his diſpatches, and that he is not now or ever was in any danger of his life. The public Letter we wrote to him long ſince alſo tells him that he has the choice of going to any chiefſhip, or a paſſage to England on any of the Company's ſhips; all this and much more has been repeatedly told him by Major Horne, and I thought it neceſſary to mention the ſame particularly to you in our vindication, and to ſhew that we do not mean to ſolicit your ſupport by appealing to the paſſions, but by the repreſentation of facts.

In a Letter I have juſt now received from the Rajah of Tanjore, he declares to me that he was never under any alarms and fears (as mentioned ſo often to the Board by Lord Pigot) that it was never his wiſh or deſire to have a Chief and Council or Reſident at Tanjore; and that he ſhould look on ſuch an appointment as an implied declaration that the Government of the Tanjore province had been transferred from the Nabob to the Company, and that thoſe therefore who could have propoſed ſuch a meaſure were not his friends; my information from Tanjore, which I can depend upon, tells me that the Rajah is entirely beſet by the creatures of Moodoo Kiſtnah

(Lord Pigot's Dubaſh) ſo that he is made to believe the moſt ridiculous ſtories; this cannot be prevented, as I have declared in my letter to him, that I will not directly or indirectly interfere in his Government, ſo that we muſt have patience until time and circumſtances can undeceive him; mean while my utmoſt attention ſhall be applied in putting the Fortreſs of Tanjore in a proper ſtate of defence.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant,

JOHN ROBERTS, Eſq. G. STRATTON.

Index to the General Letter.

Subſtance of Letters to and from the Nabob relative to Tanjore.	From paragraph 1 to par. 20 included.
Subſtance of debates about Lord Pigot's going to Tanjore.	From par. 20 to par. 30 included.
Relative to Lord Pigot's proceedings at Tanjore, and Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country.	From par. 31 to par. 82 included.
Nabob's complaint to Sir Edward Hughes againſt Lord Pigot, together with ſubſtance of Sir Edward Hughes's Letter in conſequence, and of the anſwer of the Board.	From par. 82 to par. 90 included.
Subſtance of Letters to and from the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, relative to Lord Pigot's proceedings at Tanjore.	From par. 90 to par. 96 included.
Queſtions moved by Lord Pigot, and the arguments thereon, that Members of the Board ſhould not viſit the Nabob and his ſons; that the Nabob's Letter was wrote to Sir Edward Hughes with an intent to create diviſions amongſt the Members of Government, and that the Nabob ſhould be deſired to reſide at Arcot.	From par. 99 to par. 115 included.
A queſtion propoſed by Sir Robert Fletcher, and refuſed to be put by Lord Pigot.	From par. 116 to par. 122 included.
Subſtance of a Minute of the Board on Lord Pigot's conduct.	From par. 122 to par. 123 included.
Inſtructions propoſed to be given to Colonel Stuart. Lord Pigot's refuſal to move a queſtion on thoſe inſtructions, together with his Motion that Mr. Ruſſell ſhould be appointed Reſident at Tanjore.	From par. 125 to par. 137 included.
Lord Pigot's declaration that *he would not allow a matter to be agitated at the Board.*	Par. 137, 138, and 139 included.
Arguments about the inſtructions to Colonel Stuart.	From par. 141 to 146.

Subſtance

From par. 146 to 168. Subſtance of debates about the inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, Lord Pigot's attempt to ſuſpend Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke. Proceedings in conſequence.

From par. 168 to par. 179 included. Proceedings of the Majority of the Council after ſeparating themſelves from Lord Pigot and his adherents.

From par. 179 to par. 197 included. Lord Pigot's arreſt. Reſidence at the Mount, with ſubſtance of Letter to and from Sir Edward Hughes, on the ſubject of Lord Pigot's having claimed the protection of the King's flag.

From par. 197 to par. 209 included. Remarks on the illegal and arbitrary proceedings of Lord Pigot.

From par. 209 to par. 213 included. Referring the Court of Directors to the Letter and Reſolution of the Governor-General and Council, and ſetting forth the criminality of Lord Pigot's conduct towards the Nabob, pointing out the Nabob's unſhaken attachment to the Company, and likewiſe the neceſſity there is at this preſent juncture ſtrenuouſly to improve the connexion ſubſiſting between the Nabob and the Company.

Paragraph 214. Remark on Lord Pigot's being the firſt Member of the Board to move a previous queſtion.

From par. 215 to par. 216 included. Relative to the Falſification of the Records by Lord Pigot, and his avowed contempt of the Act of Parliament, and of the inſtructions to the Governor General and Council of Bengal, as well as his declared intention to ſuppreſs or deſtroy any Letter addreſſed to the Governor and Council that he ſhould think proper.

From 217 to 224 included. Lord Pigot's criminal conduct, in inattention paid to poſitive orders from the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, for proſecuting a war in the beginning of the year with Marattas.

Paragr. 225. Suppreſſion of a Letter from the Nabob by Lord Pigot.

From 226 to 230. Remarks on draught of a Letter to the Court of Directors laid before the Board by Lord Pigot 22d June.

From 230 to 235. Remarks on part of a draught of a Letter to the Court of Directors laid before the Board by Lord Pigot to be ſent by the Grenville.

Remarks on Mr. Dalrymple's violence and arbitrary doctrines. Paragr. 235.

Reaſons for having detained Lord Pigot in arreſt, and for not having given in charges againſt him. Paragr. 236, 237.

Information lodged againſt Lord Pigot by Mr. Benfield of his having received conſiderable ſums of money and jewels, &c. from the Princes of the country, together with the reply of the Governor and Council. From 239 to 241.

General Letter from George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Eſquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Knight, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, and George Mackay, Eſquires, dated Fort St. George, the 24th of September 1776.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies.

HONORABLE,

Paragraph 1. WE had the honor to addreſs you a General and Separate Letter from this department per Ankerwyke, dated 14th February, duplicates whereof you will have received by the Hillſborough, that ſailed from hence the 20th of the ſame month.

2. We likewiſe addreſſed you a ſhort Letter 14th May, which was to have been conveyed to you by the Grenville, then meant to be diſpatched from Bombay; duplicate of this Letter, together with one addreſſed to your Honors by Lord Pigot, were tranſmitted to you by a French ſhip that ſailed from Pondicherry the latter end of laſt June, triplicate now waits on you a number in the packet.

3. The Grenville being arrived here from Bombay, and to be finally diſpatched for England, affords us an opportunity of continuing to your Honors a full account of the political and military tranſactions of this Government ſince the departure of the Ankerwyke.

4. Before we begin however upon the narrative of our proceedings, it will be neceſſary we acquaint your Honors that a ſeries of illegal, violent, and oppreſſive meaſures on the part of Lord Pigot, in which he was aided by Meſſieurs Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Stone, brought your affairs at length to ſo dangerous a criſis, that we were driven to the neceſſity of putting his Lordſhip in arreſt, and of ſuſpending thoſe gentlemen from the ſervice of the Company until your pleaſure ſhall be known. In the ſequel you will perceive the immediate cauſes which obliged us to come to this reſolution. The only alternative left us, was to abandon our conſtitutional rights, and the truſt you had repoſed in us, or firmly to aſſert the powers we were inveſted with, and remove from the Government a man, whoſe arbitrary principles would inevitably have involved your affairs in inextricable difficulties. The plan we ſhall purſue in ſtating to you theſe tranſ-

actions,

actions, ſhall be as candid to his Lordſhip and his adherents as the ſubject will poſſibly admit of. We only beg your indulgence till we come to the latter part of this Addreſs, when we ſhall enter into a full and particular diſcuſſion of them.

5. Our ſeparate Letter by the Ankerwyke will have informed your Honors of the releaſe of the Rajah of Tanjore, of the Fort of Tanjore's having been evacuted by the Nabob's troops, and in conſequence of its being garriſoned by a proper force of yours, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Harper.

6. Shortly after the departure of the Ankerwyke, we received a long Letter from the Nabob, ſtating to us the ill conduct of the Rajah of Tanjore, previous to his having gone againſt him, and the weighty reaſons which had compelled him to take that ſtep in concert with your troops under the command of General Smith. 11 March.

7. On the firſt expedition againſt Tanjore, the Nabob repreſents that his eldeſt ſon, Umdit-ul-Omrah, whom he had ſent with General Smith, had ſettled matters amicably with the Rajah, and ſtipulated with him for the payment of certain ſums, which the Rajah ſolemnly engaged himſelf to diſcharge; the non-performance of which ſtipulations on the part of the Rajah having involved his Highneſs's finances in the utmoſt diſtreſs, was the firſt cauſe which induced him to take up arms the ſecond time againſt him.

8. That in carrying on the two ſieges he had contracted ſuch conſiderable debts, as had reduced him to the utmoſt difficulties, in raiſing troops for the defence of thoſe forts and countries in other parts of his dominions, that were left defenceleſs by the old troops having been drafted from them to go againſt Tanjore; in paying batta to the army on both expeditions, as well as other expenſes, and in paying to the Dutch large ſums for the releaſe of ſuch diſtricts as they were in poſſeſſion of. And that in conſequence, all theſe heavy debts contracted for the peace and ſecurity of his and your poſſeſſions, would now lie heavy on him; that your orders were to reſtore the Rajah of Tanjore to the full and entire poſſeſſion of his dominions.

9. He then proceeds to ſay, that having cheerfully received a Garriſon of his friends, the Company, into Tanjore, he was ready, until your further orders ſhould arrive, to increaſe the allowance he had from the beginning

made the Rajah, and to pay the expenſes of any Garriſon we ſhould determine upon. That he took Tanjore, knowing his own honor, as well as that of his friends, to be concerned; but could he have foreſeen the difficulties, which from your orders were conſequent on that meaſure, though the tranquillity of the Carnatic was much diſturbed, and our mutual intereſts ſuffered by it, he would not have taken up arms to puniſh his tributary, or bring him to that degree of ſubordination, which was at length become ſo eſſential to the peace and proſperity of his dominions.

Ibid. No. 10. 10. This being the ſubſtance of the Letter in queſtion from the Nabob, we thought adviſeable to write him an immediate anſwer, wherein we, as delicately as poſſible, repreſented to him that your orders were to reſtore the country of Tanjore to the Rajah; but ſuch was our ſolicitude to do every thing in concert with his Highneſs, that theſe orders were yet unexecuted, notwithſtanding an Engliſh Garriſon had been almoſt a month in the Fort of Tanjore. That humanity to the wretched inhabitants, diſtreſſed beyond meaſure by the miſerable ſtate of the country, poſſeſſed of no kind of Government, either of his Highneſs or of the Rajah, as well as juſtice to the Rajah, who was ſtill ſcarcely better than a priſoner, and attention to the public honor, made it abſolutely neceſſary the orders of the Company ſhould be carried into immediate effect.

11. We therefore begged leave to repeat our former requeſt, that his Highneſs would give an order directed to all his Amuldars, &c. in the Tanjore country, to relinquiſh all manner of authority when called upon by us to do ſo, and to account with ſuch perſons as we ſhould name for ſuch ſums as had been collected in the Tanjore country, from the day on which your Letter relative to Tanjore had been preſented to him; and likewiſe that he would inform us of the amount of ſuch orders as he had given on the country.

22 March. 12. This produced a reply from his Highneſs a few days after, in which he ſays, it was not by a needleſs expenſe in ſuperfluous ſhow and parade he had fallen under the burthen of the heavy debt which then oppreſſed him, but in the expenſes of the defence of Madraſs, and the taking of Pondicherry in the courſe of our war with France, the expedition againſt Madura, the war with the Soubah of the Decan, which happened in conſequence of our taking poſſeſſion of the northern Circars, and afterwards from the attempt to get the Dewannee of the Myſore country. The war waged againſt it, the defraying the expenſes of his own forces, as well as thoſe of the Company, in that war, and finally from the incurſion of Hyder Ally Khan, none of which owed their riſe to him

him, as he had already fully repreſented in his Letter of the 30th of January 1770, and in addition thereto, from the ten Lacks of Pag. das he had paid on account of the Myſore war.

13. That all theſe expenſes had been incurred in aſſiſting his friends the Company, but thoſe which he had been under the neceſſity of contracting for the reduction of Tanjore, were with a view to the tranquillity of the Carnatic, and the eaſe and welfare of his people; for otherwiſe the greateſt diſorders would have aroſe from the ill conduct of the Rajah, and from his ſoliciting ſuccour from the Marattas, the Dutch, &c. as he had explained to us in his former Letters.

14. He did not, he ſays, heſitate in receiving a Garriſon of his friends the Engliſh into the Fort of Tanjore, by way of ſecurity, as into his other Forts, that there might be a ſtrong proof of his firm friendſhip for the Company; but if any one ſhould think, notwithſtanding this, that in putting the Fort under the protection of the Company, in agreeing to defray the expenſes of the Garriſon, in offering to ſettle a conſiderable Jaghire on the Rajah, and alſo to give to the Company whatever they might expect from the Rajah, ſhould he be reſtored, that he had not applied himſelf to execute your orders, it was his misfortune; that your Honors had never been furniſhed with a complete and perfect account of the circumſtances of the caſe, and were ſtill ſo unacquainted with it, as to believe for a certainty, the Rajah to be a priſoner in Trichinopoly: but he was convinced whenever his Majeſty, the Parliament of England, and the Company ſhould underſtand the real and certain ſtate of the affair, they would then approve of the conduct of their old Ally and friend, in withholding his conſent to the diſhonor of himſelf and family, and the ruin of the future intereſts of the Company, and the Engliſh nation in India. That ſo far from the country of Tanjore being diſtreſſed, and the inhabitants in the miſerable ſtate repreſented to us, it never had been in ſo proſperous a condition, many of the inhabitants being returned who had fled from the oppreſſions of the Rajah; and as a ſure and certain ſign of the induſtry of the people, and the care and attention paid to their rights, that agriculture was never carried to a greater height than during the time it was governed by his managers.

15. And laſtly, in anſwer to our requeſt, that his Highneſs would grant an order to his Amuldars in the Tanjore country to relinquiſh all manner of authority when required by us to do ſo, and to account with perſons we ſhould name for what money had been collected ſince the day he received your Letter, he replies, he had invariably, from the firſt, declared his

ſentiments in a uniform manner, with reſpect to his right to the Tanjore country; and therefore it was his earneſt entreaty we would not interfere in the management of it, until your pleaſure ſhould be known.

16. Seeing this rooted diſinclination in the Nabob to give up his claim of right to the Tanjore country, although he admitted a Garriſon
22d March. of your troops into the Fort, we addreſſed him another Letter on the ſubject, conceived in ſuch terms as would plainly ſhew him your orders were poſitive, and muſt be obeyed.

17. We acquainted him the former buſineſs of Tanjore had been well deliberated upon by your Honors, and that your orders in conſequence were not iſſued, until they had been laid before his Majeſty's Miniſters for their approval.

18. We entreated him to call to his remembrance the difficulties he was able to encounter, when the Company's power and his were united; that the Company had given him their ſupport when he was alike deſtitute of money, and of power, and that they would continue to him that ſupport; but the public faith was pledged to the Rajah, as well as to him, and the Company's poſitive orders were to put the country of Tanjore again into the poſſeſſion of the Rajah.

19. That after this, what language could we uſe to induce him to make the reſtoration of the Rajah his own act, if all the arguments we had already ſuggeſted, had not had their proper force? and with what concern, after the Company having acted in concert with him through ſo many difficulties, ſhould we be under the neceſſity of carrying their orders into effect by their authority alone? the world would juſtify us in the obedience we ſhould ſhew to the commands of our Maſters, and having never failed in the part of friendſhip, in reſpect, and in propriety of conduct towards him, we truſted we ſhould ſtand excuſed, after the preſſing manner we had ſo often urged him to do that from himſelf, which was right and proper, as well reſpecting his intereſt as his dignity.

20. A few days after this Lord Pigot, unto whom we had entruſted the whole management of this delicate and important buſineſs, as you have been before adviſed, acquainted us, "That judging from the Letter from "the Nabob above quoted, that he would not give his conſent to our "carrying into execution the orders we had received from you; and the "ſtate of the crop in the Tanjore country not being in a ſituation to admit of any further delay, he had determined, with our approbation,

"to

" to ſet out immediately for that country to carry your orders into effect,
" by placing the Rajah in the full poſſeſſion and management of his
" dominions."

21. In the propriety of this determination we unanimouſly concurred, his Lordſhip having firſt moved a queſtion to that purpoſe.

22. The ſafety of Tanjore likewiſe, and the ſecurity of the Rajah and his family, made it appear to us not only neceſſary that an Engliſh garriſon ſhould be in the Fort, but that his whole country ſhould be defended by your troops; we accordingly reſolved to ſend a battalion of Seapoys thither, the better to enable him to collect in his revenues, if ſuch a meaſure ſhould prove agreeable to him. And as the ſecurity of the Carnatic can depend only upon a well-diſciplied force, regularly paid, we were induced to hope the Rajah of Tanjore would join us in our endeavours to place the country in ſuch a ſituation.

23. At the ſame Conſultation that we came to the above reſolutions, of its being proper and neceſſary for Lord Pigot to go to Tanjore, for the reaſons aſſigned in his Minute entered on the proceedings of that day, the following queſtions were alſo moved by him, and carried in the affirmative by a Majority of the Board.

24. " That in virtue of the Commiſſion of Government, the Governor
" holds the ſame authority, when preſent in any Fort, Factory, or Settle-
" ment under this Preſidency, that he does when preſent in Fort St.
" George." And,

25. " That the Governor may take whatſoever ſervant of the Com-
" pany he chuſes with him to Tanjore, either civil or military."

26. Theſe Queſtions met with oppoſition, as your Honors will obſerve on reference to the Conſultation where they are recorded.

27. Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſrs Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, who were againſt them, argued on the firſt Queſtion; That although they had aſſented unanimouſly, " It was proper and neceſſary for Lord Pigot to
" go to Tanjore for the reaſons ſet forth in his Minute," yet they had done ſo upon the idea that more Members of the Council would upon a ſubſequent Motion be joined in a deputation with his Lordſhip, under expreſs and particular inſtructions ſigned by the Board, for a buſineſs of ſo much importance as the taking a country of ſuch conſiderable Revenue 29th March.

 from

from the Nabob and giving it to the Rajah, required ſuch a deputation; and as a military force might be neceſſary to put the Rajah in poſſeſſion, and the principal part of the treaty to be made with him was military arrangements, that the military Commander in Chief ought to be a Member of that Deputation.

28. That had your Honors judged it neceſſary to leave the management of this buſineſs ſolely to his Lordſhip, your orders would have expreſſed it, and therefore their giving him greater powers than you had done, was in their opinion inconſiſtent with their duty to the Company, and what they owed to themſelves; that the precedent was dangerous, and might be uſed to bad purpoſes. If Lord Pigot could, by going alone, render any eſſential ſervice which he could not do at the head of a deputation, they ſhould not object to his being given ſuch extraordinary powers for a time; but as they were certain he could not, they were againſt his going without a deputation; and accordingly it was moved by Sir Robert Fletcher, but carried againſt the queſtion, "That at leaſt two Members "of the Council ſhould be joined with Lord Pigot in a deputation.

29. On the ſecond queſtion it was argued, The Board having reſolved that Lord Pigot ſhould go to Tanjore, it was abſurd to ſuppoſe any objections could be made to his having every proper aſſiſtance; but by his queſtion, "That he ſhould take whatever ſervants with him, either "civil or military, that he thought proper," he might if he choſe carry with him Members of the Council and the Commander in Chief, the former of whom ſhould never be employed where they had not a ſhare of the management, nor the latter where he did not command; that he might moreover take with him, in ſubordinate ſtations, Members of the Government, who by your orders were ſpecially and by name joined with him as principals in the buſineſs of the commiſſion he was going to execute, and therefore were bound either to act as principals at Tanjore or at the Board, by holding a regular correſpondence and ſending orders to the deputation, as circumſtances might require. And on the third queſtion, That it ſeemed totally to ſubvert the preſent conſtitution of the Company, at once to fruſtrate and elude the late orders and regulations of the General Court, and to ſuperſede the commiſſion of the Commander in Chief of the forces in India, as well as that of the Commander in Chief on this eſtabliſhment. That the Commiſſion of Government was the commiſſion of the whole Board, and gave no ſeparate authority whatever to the Governor. That the only military authority which by your orders he could hold, when abſent from Madraſs, was the command of his own guard, as particularly and poſitively expreſſed in the forty-ſecond article of the

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late orders reſpecting the powers to be exerciſed by military Commanders in Chief, and that that was given him out of compliment to his ſtation, and not to perform any military operations.

30. A reply to theſe arguments your Honors will find from Mr. Dalrymple in Conſultation 10th June. 10th June.

31. Conformably however to the beforegoing reſolutions, Lord Pigot ſet out for Tanjore on the 30th of March, and arrived at that place the 8th of April.

32. Previous however to his departure he received two Letters from the Nabob, the one reiterating the arguments he had made uſe of from the beginning for his ſtill keeping poſſeſſion of the Tanjore country, till your further orders ſhould arrive, and the other declaring he never could give up that right to it which he poſſeſſed; but as his whole dependence was placed in the Engliſh Nation and the Company, he would conſent to ſet apart, after diſcharging the debts he had contracted, paying the troops garriſoned in Tanjore, and the other neceſſary expenſes of the Government of that country, whatever overplus might ariſe from the collections, and let it remain untouched until an anſwer to the repreſentations he had made to you ſhould arrive from Europe, when he would deliver it up, if ſuch ſhould be your final pleaſure.

33. Your orders however to us, to put the Rajah into the full and entire poſſeſſion and management of his country were poſitive, and thoſe orders therefore could not admit of any farther procraſtination on our part.

34. On the 11th April proclamation was made by Lord Pigot at Tanjore, That it having been your pleaſure the Rajah ſhould be reſtored, all officers civil and military, and all perſons living under your protection, were thereby required to conſider the Rajah of Tanjore as again reſtored to the Government of his country, in the full extent of that Government as he poſſeſſed it at the concluſion of the treaty in 1762, and to give him all proper aid and aſſiſtance. 24th April.

35. A few days after the arrival of Lord Pigot at Tanjore, the Rajah addreſſed him a Letter, repreſenting the then condition of his country to be ſuch, as that the placing a Garriſon of Engliſh troops in the fort was not only neceſſary, but it was likewiſe of conſequence troops ſhould be allowed him for the defence of his whole country; for the expenſes of which Ibid.

he would with pleaſure aſſign the Company four Lacks of Pagodas per annum.

36. His finances likewiſe being in utter diſorder, and the ſtate of his country in the greateſt confuſion, he found it neceſſary to throw himſelf upon the Company for his preſent ſupport, and therefore requeſted we would purchaſe of him, at a reaſonable rate, all the grain of the preſent year, excepting ſuch as his country might ſtand in need of.

37. He alſo deſired as Devy Cotah had no country annexed to it, we would take ſuch part as we ſhould think proper for a dependency thereon.

24th April. 38. This Letter from the Rajah being tranſmitted to us by Lord Pigot, together with his own ſentiments, we were of opinion the offer of the Rajah, to allow four Lacks of Pagodas annually for the expenſe of the troops to be kept for the defence of his fort and country, did not correſpond with your orders, which direct the garriſon for the fort of Tanjore ſhould be aſcertained, and the expenſe defrayed by the Rajah, according to the particular and regular accounts to be delivered to him; and therefore that the Rajah ſhould be informed, when the ſtrength of the garriſon ſhould be determined by the Board, no more of that ſum than ſhould be found neceſſary to defray the expenſes of it ſhould be required from him, but, if he choſe, ſuch a force for the protection of his country ſhould be kept up as he would provide funds for.

Ibid. 39. With reſpect to purchaſing the grain of the preſent year, a Majority of the Board concurred in opinion with Lord Pigot, it was proper and neceſſary ſo to do. Thoſe who were averſe to the meaſure were of opinion it ſhould not be purchaſed until the matter was well conſidered, and it appeared it was not grain mortgaged by the Nabob to individuals during the time he had the Government of the Tanjore country.

40. The Rajah, however, was made acquainted with our acquieſcence in his requeſt, and deſired to collect the grain as near as poſſible the ſea coaſt, for the quicker tranſportation of it hither by boats.

41. The offer of country round Devy Cotah we declined, as we thereby acted conformably to your expreſs commands.

42. During

42. During the time Lord Pigot was at Tanjore, we received a Letter from Mr. Paul Benfield, ſetting forth claims he declared himſelf to have on the Tanjore country, for loans he had made to the Nabob whilſt that country was under the government of his Highneſs, and therefore requeſting we would afford him all reaſonable aid and aſſiſtance to ſecure to him the recovery of his property while Lord Pigot remained in authority at Tanjore. Theſe claims Mr. Benfield had made application to his Lordſhip about at Tanjore, previous to the delivery of the country to the Rajah, but his Lordſhip's reply was, that "he was unable, without "the aid and aſſiſtance of his Council, to ſay more, than that he "would, on his return to Madraſs, lay Mr. Benfield's claims before "them." 24th April.

43. Mr. Benfield likewiſe informed us, that he had communicated to Lord Pigot at Madraſs, previous to his departure for Tanjore, the nature of his claims, and from what his Lordſhip had ſaid to him, that he had been encouraged to accompany him thither. He alſo gave us to underſtand, he ſhould be ready at any time to lay before us ſufficient vouchers for the authenticity of his claims.

44. This being a matter of conſequence, the claims of Mr. Benfield being very conſiderable, we reſolved to wait till the return of Lord Pigot, who could particularly inform us of every thing which had paſſed between him and Mr. Benfield at Tanjore (whither that gentleman accompanied him) relative to the buſineſs in queſtion.

45. This reſolution however was not unanimous, ſome Members of our Council being of opinion, the waiting till the return of Lord Pigot would probably be prejudicial to Mr. Benfield; or at leaſt, if ſuch ſhould be the reſolution, that Lord Pigot ſhould be informed, the grain mortgaged to Mr. Benfield by the Nabob ſhould not be meddled with, either by his Lordſhip or the Rajah, until we had come to a final determination thereupon.

46. On the 3d of May Lord Pigot returned from Tanjore. Previous, however to his Lordſhip's arrival, we received two Letters from the Nabob, as referred to in the margin; the one complaining of a party of Europeans having entered his country in a hoſtile manner by order of Lord Pigot, and of their having forcibly ſeized and carried to Tanjore ſome of his principal officers, together with all the private and public papers of his Government that they had in their poſſeſſion; and the other repreſenting the great trouble of mind he laboured under, by hearing that a company. 24th April. 29th April.

company of Seapoys were on the point of marching to take poſſeſſion of Ramnaut and Shavagunga, two diſtricts belonging to him, and entirely independent of the Tanjore country.

29th April. 47. To theſe Letters we did not immediately reply; we only acknowledged their receipt, and acquainted the Nabob we expected Lord Pigot in a few days, when we made no doubt he would clear up every thing to his Highneſs's ſatisfaction.

13th May. 48. Lord Pigot being returned from Tanjore, laid before us a diary of his proceedings, with ſuch Letters and papers as he had thought worthy of notice, and he had not communicated to us before.

49. He remarked to us, "That the ſentiments expreſſed in our "General Letter to your Honors per Ankerwyke, with the unanimous "concurrence of the Board at that time, as well as in Conſultation "25th March laſt, ſo clearly declared the expediency, not to ſay "neceſſity, of having the whole military force in the Carnatic under the "Company, and paid by them, that it had given him much ſatisfaction "to find the Rajah of Tanjore very heartily concurred in the wiſh of "the Board, that he would join them in their endeavours to place the "Carnatic in ſuch a ſituation; and being ſenſible of the advantage of "having his country thus protected by the Company, he had requeſted "their aſſiſtance to that effect, and offered to make an annual aſſignment "of 400,000 Pagodas for that purpoſe. That this ſtipulated ſum "would not only afford a ſufficiency for defraying the expenſes of the "troops neceſſary for the protection of the Tanjore country, but would "alſo leave a balance, adequate, he hoped, to our military expenſes not "paid by the Nabob; and that he had the aſſurances of the Rajah, the "four Lacks of Pagodas was conſiderably leſs than his military force "had uſually coſt him."

13th May. 50. On conſidering the whole of Lord Pigot's proceedings while at Tanjore, a Majority of the Board voted a Minute of approbation thereon. The Minority were, Sir Robert Fletcher, who approved of the acceptance of the four Lacks of Pagodas per annum, but could not change the opinions he gave in Conſultation 24th April, and retired from the Board indiſpoſed, before Lord Pigot's other proceedings were taken into conſideration; Mr. Stratton, Mr. Palmer, and Mr. Jourdan, who approved of Lord Pigot's proceedings in all but the ſeizure of the Dobbeer in the Nabob's country, as complained of in the Nabob's Letter during his Lordſhip's

ſhip's abſence; and Mr. Mackay, who approved of Lord Pigot's proceedings, excepting in the ſeizure of the Dubbeer in the Nabob's country, and in flogging Comarah Duvaſh on the public parade. A Diary of theſe proceedings, to which we beg you will be referred, is entered on our Conſultations that wait on you by this diſpatch.

51. It was likewiſe reſolved, "That the requeſt of the Rajah of Tanjore, "not only to garriſon the fort, but to protect the country of Tanjore "by the Company's troops, in conſideration of his paying Pagodas "400,000 per annum, ſhould be complied with." 13th May.

52. The reply made by Lord Pigot to the Nabob, in conſequence of the Letters we had received from his Highneſs during his Lordſhip's abſence, and in which he complained of acts of hoſtility having been committed againſt him by Lord Pigot's order, is entered on our Proceedings, to which we beg you will be referred. 13th May.

53. Having reſolved, as we have already informed you, to wait the return of Lord Pigot from Tanjore, before we took into conſideration the claims of Mr. Benfield on that country, we accordingly ſet apart an early day after his Lordſhip's arrival for that purpoſe.

54. This Mr. Benfield was made acquainted with, and at the ſame time informed he was given that notice, in order that he might prepare and lay before us whatever elſe he might have to offer on the ſubject of his claims on the Tanjore country. 17th May.

55. We accordingly received on the day appointed two Letters from Mr. Benfield, acquainting us, that ſince his former Addreſs he had been informed the grain of the preſent crop, delivered over to him by the Circar on account of his claims, had been taken poſſeſſion of by the Company's Seapoys and the people of the Rajah; alſo of the ſeizure of that which had been delivered on account of the debts of the inhabitants to the Circar, aſſigned over to him; and likewiſe of his people having been removed from their ſtations in the mortgaged diſtricts, and from collecting the debts of the inhabitants aſſigned to him; and that a ſtop had been put to his ſelling the grain of the laſt year, which he had received from the Nabob on account of former loans in the different parts of the Tanjore country. And further he had been informed, that with the ſame power which had been before exerciſed, his grain had been ſeized, his people driven away from collecting the debts due to him from the inh- 20th May.

bitants, and that grain which thoſe inhabitants had mortgaged and delivered over to him as ſecurity for their debts, had likewiſe been taken poſſeſſion of.

56. This repreſentation of Mr. Benfield being a matter of ſerious conſequence, and ſeveral of our Members being indiſpoſed and abſent when it was read, we reſolved his Letters ſhould lie for the conſideration of a full Board; and in the mean time we called upon him, purſuant to his Letter of the 22d April, for ſufficient vouchers, &c. of his claims, as well as to furniſh us with every neceſſary information relative to the nature and circumſtances of thoſe claims, and the periods at which they were contracted.

28th May. 57. In conſequence of this, we received a Letter from Mr. Benfield at our next meeting, ſtating to us fully and particularly the nature of his claims on the Tanjore country, to which we beg you will be referred, together with a tranſlate of a certificate given him by the Nabob for their authenticity.

58. Theſe Letters therefore, together with all ſuch others as he had addreſſed, either to us or to Lord Pigot, we attentively conſidered; but not finding that ſatisfactory account of ſome circumſtances neceſſary towards forming a proper judgment on the ſubject, we called upon Mr. Benfield for an account of the particulars of the ſums he had received from
29th May. the Tanjore country, as well as for certain vouchers we deemed it of conſequence to have produced.

Ibid. 59. The next morning we accordingly aſſembled in Council, and read a Letter from Mr. Benfield.

60. In anſwer to one part of which, where he complains "Of the injuries he had ſuſtained from the meaſures and conduct of the Right Honorable Lord Pigot, while acting under the commiſſion of the Board, "in cauſing the grain that had been depoſited with him to be ſeized by "the Company's Seapoys, and in depriving him of the means further to
Ibid. "collect the revenues;" Lord Pigot obſerved, that reference might be made to the reſolution of Council the 25th March laſt, to the orders given the officer commanding the battalion of Seapoys, and to the form of an order from him to ſuch officers as he ſhould ſend on detachment; and then deſired our opinions "As to the propriety of thoſe orders with reſpect to

" the reſolutions of Council 25th March, and the power we had veſted " in him to carry your orders into execution."

61. A Majority of the Board voted an affirmative opinion on thoſe meaſures.

62. A Reſolution then paſſed to furniſh Mr. Benfield with a copy of thoſe orders, and to inform him, if his people could point out any officer or Seapoy who had acted improperly, and he would repreſent the particulars of ſuch conduct to us, the neceſſary enquiries ſhould be made accordingly.

63. Lord Pigot then moved the following queſtion, which was carried in the affirmative by a Majority of ſix to five : Ibid.

64. " That the Rajah of Tanjore being put in the poſſeſſion and ma- " nagement of his country by the Company's expreſs orders, it is the " opinion of this Board, that it is not in their power to comply with Mr. " Benfield's requeſts in any reſpect, thoſe claims on individuals which " bear the appearance of having no connexion with Government, not be- " ing ſufficiently explained to enable the Board to form an opinion there- " on, and the aſſignments of the Nabob not being admiſſible."

65. The diſſents to this Reſolution are entered in Conſultation referred to in the margin. 3d June.

66. The ſame day on which theſe diſſents were given in, Mr. Brooke, who had voted at the former diſcuſſion of this matter for the queſtion, moved the Board, for reaſons ſet forth in a Minute which he recorded on the occaſion, to re-conſider the Proceedings of the 29th May, relative to Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country.

67. This requeſt of Mr. Brooke was accordingly complied with, and a day ſet apart for that purpoſe.

68. The ſubject however did not come under debate ſo ſoon as was expected, ſome Members of the Board, particularly Mr. Floyer, who had juſt arrived from England and taken his ſeat, deſiring a further time to read and conſider the papers entered on the occaſion.

69. Mr.

69. Mr. Floyer, on the day he took his ſeat as a Member of this Goverment, 6th June, informed the Board, that in conſequence of his appointment from your Honors to ſucceed Mr. Whitehill in the Chiefſhip of Mazulipatam, and that gentleman having taken his departure for Europe, he was ready to repair to the ſtation you had been pleaſed to appoint him; upon which your late Preſident obſerved, that he ſhould have ſome particular matters relative to the Northern Circars to lay before the Board in a few days, and he therefore hoped the Board would poſtpone entering upon Mr. Floyer's appointment until he had done ſo. The Majority of the Board were of opinion, that your orders concerning him ſhould be implicitly obeyed, but conſented to defer this matter for the reaſon aſſigned by Lord Pigot. But Mr. Floyer perceiving an unwillingneſs in his Lordſhip to proceed upon the execution of your orders relative to his appointment to Mazulipatam, he again moved the Board on the 21ſt of June to take thoſe orders into conſideration, as your late Preſident had been totally ſilent on the ſubject he informed the Board he ſhould in a few days lay before us, and we accordingly ſignified to the Council of Mazulipatam your appointment of him to that Chiefſhip. We beg leave to refer your Honors to the Minutes recorded on this occaſion by your late Preſident and Mr. Dalrymple.

70. A few days after the arrival of Mr. Floyer, the Board entered upon a reconſideration of your late Preſident's Motion of the 29th May, reſpecting the property of the laſt year's crop of grain in the Tanjore country; when Mr. Floyer took occaſion to requeſt permiſſion to decline giving his ſentiments or vote thereupon, as he deemed it a ſubject of great importance, of which he could not pretend to a competent knowledge with the little information he ſhould be able to obtain on the ſubject; and urged, as a further reaſon for his not interfering in the queſtion, that he might probably err in the opinion he might give, and that as his duty called him to Mazulipatam, he ſhould not have it in his power, by being at his ſtation, to remedy the evils which his vote might entail, if the ſubject ſhould on any future occaſion come again under the diſcuſſion of the Board. To which the Preſident, Meſſieurs Dawſon, Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Stone replied, he might eaſily make himſelf maſter of the ſubject, and therefore inſiſted, though entirely againſt his inclination, that he ſhould give his ſentiments, and vote on the occaſion. Compelled in this manner, Mr. Floyer reluctantly complied, as your Honors will perceive on reference to the proceedings.

71. What

71. What his Lordſhip's intentions could be, in thus forcing Mr. Floyer to give his ſentiments and vote on the *re-conſideration* of a ſubject that had been fully diſcuſſed before his arrival, is a matter we ſhall not here touch upon; we only ſubmit it to your candour, if it would not have been more equitable to have allowed Mr. Floyer to proceed to his appointment at Mazulipatam, or at leaſt to have permitted him to remain ſilent on the occaſion, than to have forcibly compelled him to be a party in a matter which had already been determined upon.

72. In the mean while a Minute was given in by Mr. Dalrymple, not merely relating to Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country, but as the diſcuſſion concerned the Nabob, the Tanjore country, your orders, and our Reſolutions in conſequence. 10th June.

73. This Minute has been fully replied to by Sir Robert Fletcher in Conſultation 24th June, to which we beg you will be referred.

74. At our next meeting Lord Pigot moved, that the Reſolution of Council the 29th May, "declaring Mr. Benfield's claims not to have been "ſufficiently explained, and the Nabob's aſſignments to be inadmiſſible," ſhould ſtand confirmed; but on the queſtion's being put, it was carried in the negative ſeven to five. 13th June.

75. The next day Lord Pigot moved us again to come to the Reſolution, "That all the claims of Mr. Benfield were private and not public "concerns;" but this likewiſe being put to the vote, was carried in the negative. 14th June.

76. And the following Reſolutions propoſed by Mr. Mackay were paſſed in the affirmative by a Majority of ſeven to five.

1ſt. "That it is the opinion of the Board, that the Nabob had a right "to the Government-ſhare of the crop in the Tanjore country, the pro-"duce of grain ſown during the time it was in his poſſeſſion, and that "any mortgages he may have given on the ſame are good."

2d. "That a Letter be written to the Rajah of Tanjore to inform him "of the above Reſolution of the Board, and to recommend to him to "give Mr. Benfield all reaſonable aſſiſtance in recovering ſuch debts as

" appear to be juſtly due to him from the inhabitants, as well as to re-
" ſtore to him the grain of laſt year, which was in the poſſeſſion of his
" people, and ſaid to be forcibly taken from them." And,

3d. " That it be further recommended to the Rajah to account with
" Mr. Benfield for the Government-ſhare of the grain in the diſtricts aſ-
" ſigned to him by the Nabob, and ſaid to be forcibly taken from his
" people."

14th June. 77. On reference to the debates on theſe reſolutions your Honors will be pleaſed to obſerve the Votes ſtood in the following order:

For	Againſt
Mr. Stratton,	Lord Pigot,
Sir Robert Fletcher,	Mr. Dawſon,
Mr. Brooke,	Mr. Ruſſell,
Mr. Floyer,	Mr. Dalrymple,
Mr. Palmer,	Mr. Stone.
Mr. Jourdan,	
Mr. Mackay.	

78. When theſe Reſolutions had been paſſed, Lord Pigot acquainted us, if his Queſtion, declaring Mr. Benfield's claims to be of a private inſtead of a public nature, had been carried in the affirmative, he would have followed it with this Motion:

79. " That as it appears to this Board, that Mr. Benfield's tranſactions
" with the Country Government are contrary to the expreſs orders of the
" Company, and that any interference therein may raiſe apprehenſions in the
" Rajah of Tanjore, and tend to involve the Company's affairs on this
" Coaſt; for which reaſon it is reſolved, that this matter be referred to the
" Court of Directors."

80. This is entered on the Proceedings of that day, at his Lordſhip's particular deſire.

13th, 17th, 20th, 28th, and 29th May. 3d, 10th, 13th, 14th, 17th, and 24th June. 81. For a more full and comprehenſive knowledge of this ſubject, we beg leave to requeſt your Honors will be referred to our Conſultations, and to the ſeveral Minutes that have been delivered in on the occaſion, as noted in the Margin.

82. On

82. On the 3d June we received a Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, acquainting us, it was with much concern he found himſelf under the neceſſity of interfering in any reſpect between your Repreſentatives and the Nabob; but that the application, which he encloſed from his Highneſs, was of ſo alarming a tendency, he could not avoid laying it before us as ſoon as poſſible; part of the King's inſtructions to him being to do his utmoſt to promote the intereſts of his Majeſty, as well as of your's, or of ſuch Indian princes as you have already or may contract engagements with, among whom the Nabob of the Carnatic held the moſt diſtinguiſhed place. 3d June.

83. That his duty to the King his maſter, his zeal for the Company's welfare, and the feeling he had for the diſtreſſes of ſo good a friend to both, were to him the moſt urgent motives for writing to us; when he made not a doubt we would take ſuch meaſures in conſequence, as would effectually protect the Nabob from ſuch alarms in future, the national honor and intereſt, as well as the welfare of the Company, being materially connected with the juſt ſecurity of his Highneſs.

84. The Letter encloſed to us by Sir Edward Hughes, addreſſed to him by the Nabob, was in purport as followeth : 3d June.

85. " That the aſſurances of ſupport and protection he had received " from the grandfather of his preſent Majeſty, and repeatedly from his " Majeſty himſelf and the Company, had given him the greateſt con- " fidence that his rights and honor would have been preſerved invio- " late; but the apprehenſions under which he laboured, from Lord Pigot's " unjuſt uſe of his power, had arrived at ſo dangerous a height, that he " was obliged to apply to him, Sir Edward Hughes, for immediate in- " terference in his ſupport. That Lord Pigot, not content with the low " and diſgraceful ſtate to which he had reduced his authority, by the mea- " ſures which he executed at Tanjore, had lately threatened to ſubject " him to the moſt perſonal diſgrace, by declaring in his Durbar, in a " moſt determined and threatened tone of voice, that he would place an " European guard upon his, the Nabob's houſe, to keep him a priſoner. " That the cauſe of this outrage was his having written Lord Pigot a Let- " ter on the 26th May, repreſenting the injuſtice he had done him, by " ordering a military force to march into the Ramnaut country, to deprive " him of ſome diſtricts there, and put the Rajah of Tanjore in poſſeſſion " of them. That no oppreſſion could be equal to the depriving a man of

" his right. That as Lord Pigot on a former occaſion had ordered people " to enter his, the Nabob's, gardens in the middle of the night, pre- " tending he had information ſome people were ordered to be ill-treated " there, ſo he was under the greateſt alarm leſt Lord Pigot would pro- " ceed to execute in a paſſion what he had threatened; and therefore, as " Sir Edward Hughes was the ſervant of the King and Nation, who were " his protectors, as he was ſent here for the ſupport of his Sovereign's " honor, and the intereſt of the Company, ſo he called upon him, by every " duty which he owed to juſtice and his high ſtation, to write immediately " to the Board, that ſuch meaſures might be taken, as to ſecure his perſon " and family againſt Lord Pigot's threats and violence. That ſuch was " the juſtice of his cau e, that he was confident the Company would order " him full redreſs for the injuries which had been done to his Govern- " ment and people by Lord Pigot's conduct at Tanjore; but who was to " ſupport him againſt thoſe he then threatened, unleſs Sir Edward Hughes " would repreſent to the Council his ſituation; for that, by the eſtabliſhed " cuſtom, he could not apply to the Council but through the Governor, " and that the complaints were of the Governor himſelf."

86. Whereupon an anſwer was immediately wrote to Sir Edward Hughes to the following effect: thoſe parts which are within inverted Commas being the explanation his Lordſhip gave us at the time.

87. That " our Preſident aſſured us the Nabob had totally miſunder- " ſtood him, he never having had a thought of placing a guard over him, " although he feared, and expreſſed thoſe fears to the Nabob, that the en- " couragement his Highneſs gave to European viſitors, and the impedi- " ments to public buſineſs, ariſing from the intrigues carried on by them " at the Durbar, would lay him under a neceſſity to place a guard to bring " ſuch perſons to him, that he might be acquainted with the nature of their " buſineſs."

88. We concluded this would be ſufficient to ſatisfy him the perſon of the Nabob was in perfect ſecurity, our Preſident declaring " no wanton " indignity to his Highneſs ever was intended, or ever would be com- " mitted by him, although his ears could never be ſhut to the complaints " of the diſtreſſed," and we aſſuring him that no ſuch indignity to the Nabob ſhould ever be countenanced by us, who were entruſted with the management of your affairs here.

89. The

89. The ſame day Sir Edward Hughes favoured us with an anſwer, acquainting us, that in order to ſatisfy the Nabob's mind on the ſubject of his Highneſs's application to him as the King's ſervant, he had immediately ſent him a copy of his Letter and our reply, which he thought could not fail to produce the deſired effect.

90. On the 10th June we received a Letter from the Governor General and Council of Bengal, requiring copies of our Proceedings relative to Tanjore, and ſignifying to us at the ſame time, that they were the more deſirous of receiving ſuch materials, as they were informed an officer, at the head of the Company's troops, had been ſent to Arialoor, which place they underſtood was ſituated without the boundary of the kingdom of Tanjore, to ſeize upon one or more of the Nabob's officers, and had carried him or them with their papers to Tanjore.

91. That this act required an *explanation*. If it was neceſſary, in order to carry your inſtructions into execution, we would be juſtified by your inſtructions; but that this tranſaction, ſo far as they were yet acquainted with it, appeared to them a violation of the independent rights of the Nabob of the Carnatic, in which character Mahomed Ally Khan was acknowledged by the Treaty of Paris.

92. To this Letter we replied, that Lord Pigot acquainted us, "As "he had paſſed through the Tanjore country, he found the proper "officers, with all their accounts, had removed by the Nabob's orders "from the villages; and was ſoon informed that every part of the "country was in the ſame ſituation. That every means had been taken to "throw difficulties in his way in the execution of the Company's orders, "and to diſtreſs the country and its inhabitants. That without the "aſſiſtance of the Dobbeer, (the principal officer of the Nabob who was "ſeized) and his accounts, it would have been impoſſible for the "Rajah to have obtained any knowledge of the Revenues, or indeed to "have been properly placed in the management of his country; this man "having been firſt Miniſter, and in fact Governor of the Tanjore "country for fifty years paſt. That after Tanjore was taken, he told "the Nabob's ſon, who commanded there for his father, that he would "not deſert his maſter in his misfortunes, and refuſed to act until he "carried him to the Rajah, and deſired the Rajah to lay his commands "upon him. That on his (Lord Pigot's) proceeding for Tanjore, the "Nabob ordered the Dobbeer to be ſent out of the Tanjore country "with all the public accounts. That the Dobbeer had retarded his "his journey by various pretences, and ſent a meſſage to the Rajah, de-

" firing he might be conducted to Tanjore; the troop which attended " Lord Pigot was therefore ſent to eſcort him; but when the troop ar- " rived at the place whence the meſſage to the Rajah had been ſent, they " found the Dobbeer had been conveyed from thence to Arialoor, whi- " ther the commanding officer of the troop followed, and eſcorted him " to Tanjore. That Lord Pigot had wrote to the Nabob, " If he would " pleaſe to order the Amuldars and other officers to return with their " accounts to the Dobbeer at Tanjore, juſtice might be done to every " man, and the country, in a proper and equitable manner;" which he " however had not thought proper to comply with."

93. That we never would loſe ſight of the treaty of Paris; but that we could not believe that treaty could be conſtrued to obſtruct any pro- per meaſures which might be neceſſary for the Company's ſecurity, or the ſafety of the Carnatic.

94. Our Proceedings being voluminous, it was out of our power to have them copied in time to accompany this Letter; they were however after- wards tranſmitted to them, together with every paper that could be of aſſiſtance to them in forming their judgment.

95. The Reſolutions the Governor-General and Council of Bengal came to, on taking this ſubject into conſideration, as well as the directions to us in conſequence, will be fully treated of in the latter part of this addreſs.

96. It is however neceſſary to remark, that on application to Mr. Benfield and Mr. De Souza, two gentlemen who were well qualified, from their extenſive dealings in the Tanjore country, to inform us, we found that the village accounts were ſtill in the reſpective villages in that coun- try, although Lord Pigot had repeatedly declared they were carried out of it by the expreſs orders of the Nabob.

97. On the 17th of June, Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſieurs Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, delivered in a joint Minute on the ſubject of our proceedings relative to Tanjore.

98. Mr. Jourdan gave in a ſeparate one likewiſe on the ſame day, containing a ſketch of what, he was of opinion, might be effected for the ſecurity and advantage of the Company, the Nabob, and the Rajah. To theſe Minutes we beg you will be referred.

99. At the ſame Meeting that theſe Minutes were delivered in, Lord Pigot moved the following Queſtions: "That it was the opinion of the "Board, the Letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes was written "purpoſely to create animoſity between the Members of this Govern-"ment."

100. This was carried in the affirmative by Lord Pigot's caſting voice.

101. The Members againſt it were Meſſieurs Mackay, Jourdan, Palmer, Floyer, Sir Robert Fletcher, and Mr. Stratton.

102. Lord Pigot then continued: "After ſuch a Letter as that written "by the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes, and after the ſentiments he "(Lord Pigot) expreſſed in reply to Sir Edward Hughes, as well as "what paſſed in debate upon the ſubject, he did hope the impropriety, "nay indecency, of viſiting the Nabob under ſuch circumſtances, would "ſtrike every Member of the Council; and therefore, agreeably to the "ſtanding orders of the Company, recommended, that no Member of the "Council ſhould henceforth viſit, or correſpond by writing, or by meſ-"ſage, with the Nabob or either of his ſons; and the more particularly "ſo, as he was informed the Nabob had been made acquainted with the "late proceedings of the Board; and he thought it very improper any "Member of the Council ſhould be liable to the ſlighteſt ſuſpicion of "divulging to the Nabob the proceedings of Government."

103. This Queſtion was likewiſe carried in the affirmative by Lord Pigot's caſting Vote.

104. Thoſe Members who were againſt it, Meſſieurs Mackay, Jourdan, Palmer, Floyer, and Sir Robert Fletcher, arguing, that the Court of Directors did not mean the Nabob ſhould be prevented from ſeeing any perſon whatever, much leſs Members of this Government; that thoſe orders were only to be underſtood, that all correſpondence with the Nabob, or other country powers, *or their affairs*, ſhould be carried on in the name of the Preſident.

105. That making an order, that Members of the Council ſhould not viſit the Nabob, would be extremely improper, and more eſpecially at a time when accuſations from the Nabob againſt Lord Pigot were laying before the Board; that ſuch a Motion implied ſtrong ſuſpicions of Members of Government; and that the Nabob having expreſſed ſtrong ap-

prehenſions

prehenſions for his own perſonal ſafety, ſuch apprehenſions would naturally be increaſed by ſuch an order.

106. Lord Pigot then repreſented to the Board many difficulties that attended the conſtant reſidence of the Nabob within the Company's bounds, and moved, "As he was deſirous to avoid every occaſion of "giving diſguſt to the Nabob, and as circumſtances *would* occur daily "to increaſe his diſcontent whilſt he remained here, that it be recom-"mended to the Nabob to reſide at Arcot, as the moſt effectual method "of preventing miſunderſtandings."

107. This Motion made by Lord Pigot met, as you will naturally conceive, with ſtrong oppoſition, and, upon being put to the vote, was carried in the negative by a Majority of Seven to Five.

108. The Majority who were againſt it argued, that the inconveniences which would ariſe from it were infinite, without there being the appearance of the leaſt poſſible advantage to the Company's affairs. That in caſe of refuſal compulſatory meaſures could not be uſed towards the Nabob, who had reſided here ſo many years. That from ſuch a ſtep it muſt appear, not only to the Nabob, but to the whole world, that in conſequence of the late unhappy miſunderſtandings between him and Lord Pigot, we had become diſtruſtful of his friendſhip, that we were alſo diſtruſtful of one another, and that we were inclined to offer indignity to his perſon, whenever he ſhould think it adviſable to differ in opinion upon any matter which might concern himſelf or Government; and that it would tend to diſguſt him againſt the Company's Government, and help to alienate that ſtrong friendſhip and alliance which had ſo happily ſubſiſted between the Company and his Highneſs.

109. Further reaſons are adduced in ſupport of this opinion, in Conſultation 24th June, when ſeveral Minutes and Diſſents were entered, relative to the Queſtion on which it was founded, as alſo to the preceding ones moved the ſame day by his Lordſhip, as before mentioned, to which we requeſt your particular attention.

110. Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſieurs Brooke, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, likewiſe gave in a Minute on the ſame day, remarking, that "Lord Pigot having been pleaſed, in his reply to the "complaints laid before the Board by Sir Edward Hughes, to acknow-"ledge firſt, that of having threatened to place a guard near the Nabob's "perſon, and ſecondly, that of having ordered a party of Seapoys to

"march

" march in the night to St. Thomé for another particular purpoſe, it " became a duty incumbent on them to give their opinions upon thoſe " points, leſt their ſilence ſhould paſs for an applied approbation, and " on that approbation *a precedent might* afterwards be founded and " pleaded in ſimilar caſes." They then proceed to give their ſentiments on thoſe points, to which we beg you will be referred.

111. After this Minute your Honors will perceive the following Queſtion moved by Mr. Mackay:

112. " As the Reſolution on the Nabob's Letter to Sir Edward " Hughes was carried by the Preſident's caſting Vote, though, in Mr. " Mackay's opinion, a party concerned, and though the opinion of one " of the Members for that Queſtion (Mr. Brooke) appeared doubtful, " Mr. Mackay moved, that the Reſolution be reſcinded."

113. Which Queſtion was followed by Sir Robert Fletcher's repreſenting to the Board, " That he had had the Records examined, and " could find no ſuch ſtanding order of the Company as was quoted by " Lord Pigot, and upon which he imagined *ſome* of the Members of " the Board were induced to vote for his Lordſhip's ſecond Motion. " Sir Robert Fletcher further obſerved, That upon conſidering atten- " tively the words in which that Motion was conceived, he found that " Members of the Board might be thought by ſome (though innocently) " to offend againſt the Reſolution which paſſed upon that Motion, " merely becauſe they did not, and in his opinion could not, ſhut their " doors in the faces of the Nabob and his ſons when they happened to drop " in of an evening on a viſit; and as for himſelf, he repeated, that there " were frequent complaints made to him from the out-garriſons of diſ- " putes between the officers under his command and the Nabob's officers, " and againſt ſome of the Company's officers in the Nabob's ſervice, upon " points of duty; that theſe, in conſequence of a meſſage from the Com- " mander in Chief to the Nabob, or to one of his ſons, or a meſſage " from one of them to the Commander in Chief, were in general amica- " bly ſettled by him."

114. For all theſe reaſons, Sir Robert Fletcher hopes the impropriety of the Reſolution on Lord Pigot's ſecond Motion, viz. " That no Mem- " ber of Council do henceforth viſit, or correſpond by writings, or by " meſſage, with the Nabob or either of his ſons," would ſtrike every Member of the Board, and therefore moved, " That that Reſolution " ſhould be reſcinded."

115. As Mr. Dawſon had been preſent when the above-mentioned Queſtions, moved by Lord Pigot, were reſolved in the affirmative, it was agreed, at the deſire of Lord Pigot, to ſummon Mr. Dawſon, who had taken his final leave of the Board in order to proceed to Europe, to attend the next Council, when the foregoing Motions of Mr. Mackay and Sir Robert Fletcher ſhould be taken into conſideration.

116. In the mean time Mr. Dalrymple gave in a Minute on the proceedings relative to Tanjore, entered in Conſultation 1ſt July.

117. On the 8th July Sir Robert Fletcher deſired that his Motion for reſcinding the Reſolution of the 17th June, on Lord Pigot's ſecond Queſtion, relative to Members of the Council not viſiting or receiving meſſages from the Nabob or either of his ſons, might be taken into conſideration.

118. Lord Pigot then obſerved, that the Reſolution of Council the 17th June, that Members of the Board ſhould not viſit, or receive meſſages from the Nabob or his ſons, was grounded on the reaſons which were given in his Minute preceding that Motion.

119. That it was true he had, at the deſire of Mr. Brooke, given his conſent to the reconſideration of the Reſolution of the 29th May, on the Nabob and Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country, becauſe that private property was then concerned; but as no ſuch matter was affected by the Reſolution of the 17th June, and becauſe the reſcinding ſuch Reſolution would only increaſe the difficulties he had found in conducting the buſineſs of the Company with the Nabob, he declared he never would *give his conſent* that the Queſtion moved by Sir Robert Fletcher *ſhould be put*. He at the ſame time obſerved, that he was certain of acting on that occaſion with perfect conſiſtency. That during the many years he had been in the ſervice, he had always known the buſineſs of the Board originate with the Preſident, who was undoubtedly the propereſt perſon to lay before them ſuch ſubjects as required their conſideration.

120. Lord Pigot *refuſing in this manner to put the Queſtion* propoſed by Sir Robert Fletcher for reſcinding the Reſolution paſſed on his Lordſhip's ſecond Motion 17th June, the Majority thought it incumbent on them to record their opinions on the occaſion; in every reſpect diſapproving of Lord Pigot's conduct, and declaring, "That his Lordſhip ought not to refuſe "putting the Queſtion, and that the Reſolution ſhould be reſcinded."

121. Joint

121. Joint and ſeparate Minutes were entered by them on the occaſion, to which we beg you will be referred.

122. Lord Pigot then declared, "That, from the conſtitution of the "ſervice, he was well convinced no perſon but himſelf *could agitate a* "*Queſtion at the Board.* That he had ever known that *right veſted ſolely* "in the Preſident, who was always ſuppoſed the beſt judge of what "Queſtions were or were not fit for the benefit of the Company's affairs, "and who, if a Queſtion ſhould be propoſed which to him ſhould "appear productive of bad conſequences, had *an undoubted right to* "*prevent that Queſtion's being put.*"

123. This was on the 8th of July; on the 9th we, the Members of the preſent Government, gave in the following Minute:

124. "The Preſident, Lord Pigot, having at two former Conſultations "aſſerted a *right to adjourn* the Council, contrary to the opinion of the "Majority of the Board, having in the civil department *refuſed to put* a "previous Queſtion (which was moved) although deſired by many of "the Board, who had not had time to conſider of the propoſition laid "before them, having at the laſt Meeting *refuſed* to put a Queſtion "regularly moved for reſcinding a former Reſolution of Council, and "having aſſerted, that *a reſolution of the Majority of the Board could not be* "*carried into execution without his concurrence*, in the latter of which he "was ſupported by Mr. Dalrymple; we thought it incumbent upon us "to expreſs the aſtoniſhment as well as concern we felt at hearing ſuch "doctrines, to declare in the ſtrongeſt terms, that ſuch claims were incom-"patible with the rights of the other Members of this Government, and "that many dangerous conſequences might enſue from the admiſſion of "ſuch unconſtitutional, and, we were ſorry to add, arbitrary principles. "We knew that the Government was veſted in a Majority of the Board, "and that that Majority might exiſt whether the Preſident were of it or "not. Duty to our Maſters and to our country, regard to thoſe who were "placed under this Government, and our own honor, required that we "ſhould never give up any of the rights intruſted to us by the conſti-"tution. We know our rights, but we ſincerely hoped never to be "driven to the painful neceſſity of exerting them; and on that occaſion "we hoped it would ſuffice, that the opinions of the Majority of the "Board being for reſcinding the Reſolution upon the ſecond Motion of "Lord Pigot the 17th June, that the ſame was legally, though not in "the uſual form, reſcinded."

125. Mr.

125. Mr. Dalrymple then thought it was a proper occaſion to obſerve, "That from a careful peruſal of the Company's Commiſſion of Government, he found, that the Council were appointed the better to enable "the Governor to manage the affairs of the Company, that he therefore "could not think the Council were, either by the letter or ſpirit of "that Commiſſion, intended to manage the Company's affairs without "the Governor."

126. On the 25th June, a Letter was laid before the Board by Brigadier-General Sir Robert Fletcher, addreſſed to him by Colonel Stuart, wherein Colonel Stuart ſubmits it to the conſideration of the Commander in Chief, if it were not proper, for the reaſons he aſſigns, that the Board would be pleaſed to appoint him to the command of the fort and garriſon of Tanjore.

127. No reſolution was come to on that day, the Letter was ordered to lie upon the table for conſideration.

128. The 9th of July, Sir Robert Fletcher, for the reaſons aſſigned in Colonel Stuart's Letter, and becauſe he wiſhed to have his ſentiments upon the ſtate of the fort and country of Tanjore, with reſpect to their defence, particularly as it was rumoured armaments were fitted out from France, recommended that Colonel Stuart ſhould be appointed to the command of Tanjore.

129. Colonel Stuart was accordingly appointed, though Lord Pigot, and Meſſieurs Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Stone, oppoſed it to the utmoſt of their power.

130. A draught of inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, in conſequence of his appointment, was laid before the Board by the Commander in Chief the 30th July, which inſtructions, though not diſapproved in any reſpect by Lord Pigot or any other Member, were ordered to lie for conſideration, and for his Lordſhip to make any additions which he might think neceſſary.

131. Although nominated the 9th July, it was not until the 1ſt Auguſt that Colonel Stuart was officially acquainted therewith, and ordered to hold himſelf in readineſs to proceed to Tanjore.

132. Sir Robert Fletcher not being able to attend Council from indiſpoſition, encloſed to the Secretary 19th Auguſt a paper of freſh in-

ſtructions for Colonel Stuart, which he deſired might be laid before the Board for their conſideration, his Lordſhip having kept the former draught.

133. They were on that day accordingly laid before us, when Lord Pigot remarked, that " He had frequently repeated to the Board his " earneſt wiſh that they would permit Mr. Ruſſell to proceed to Tan- " jore, if it were even for a few days ; that he was ſo fully convinced " of the neceſſity of that meaſure, the Rajah and the country being in " the greateſt diſtreſs, that he was forced in the ſtrongeſt terms to " urge his former deſire, that Mr. Ruſſell might have their permiſſion to " go in the manner he before recommended to them. This he was in " hopes the Board would acquieſce in, and the more ſo, as he had at a " former Conſultation declared, *he never could give his conſent* to Colonel " Stuart's going to Tanjore, until the Board ſhould have likewiſe " reſolved, that Mr. Ruſſell ſhould proceed thither according to his " appointment." 19th Auguſt.

134. The ſenſe of the Board was then taken upon the above, when a majority of ſix to four were againſt Mr. Ruſſell's going to Tanjore, becauſe he was appointed by the Company a Member of the Committee of Circuit, and becauſe this matter had been ſtrenuouſly agitated in the civil department, when a Reſolution paſſed, that he and Mr. Dalrymple ſhould ſet off on that ſervice the 31ſt Auguſt.

135. Whereupon the draught of inſtructions being read, Lord Pigot obſerved, that " Having repeatedly recommended to the Board the pro- " priety, not to ſay neceſſity, of Mr. Ruſſell's going to Tanjore, he " then declared, *he never would give his ſanction* to any inſtructions to " Colonel Stuart until that meaſure was adopted."

136. Mr. Floyer then deſired the queſtion might be put to the Board, to take into conſideration the above draught of inſtructions to Colonel Stuart.

137. Lord Pigot however oppoſed it, and declared, " For the " reaſons he had before aſſigned, that *he would not put the queſtion at* " *that time.*"

138. Lord Pigot having in this manner *refuſed to put the queſtion* moved by Mr. Floyer, and it being a matter of the greateſt conſequence to be determined, whether the Preſident had a right *to refuſe* putting

any queſtion propoſed, the conſideration of it was deferred until the next day.

20th Auguſt. 139. Being aſſembled the next morning in conſequence of adjournment, Mr. Mackay recorded an opinion to the following effect: "That the "Preſident (Lord Pigot) having refuſed to put the queſtion moved by "Mr. Floyer, viz. to take into conſideration the draught of inſtructions "to Colonel Stuart, he thought it neceſſary to enter his opinion, that "the Board ſhould then proceed to take into conſideration the ſaid "inſtructions."

140. Mr. Jourdan ſubſcribed to this opinion.

141. Lord Pigot then declared, "That having *determined not to give* "*his conſent* to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore, until Mr. Ruſſell "ſhould be ordered to proceed thither likewiſe, *he would not allow the* "*matter to be then agitated at the Board.*"

142. Upon which Lord Pigot was requeſted by Mr. Stratton in the moſt earneſt manner to put the queſtion, as it was perfectly conſiſtent with the conſtitution and rules of the ſervice; but this he ſtill declined, upon the ſame principles that he had before advanced.

143. Finding his Lordſhip thus obſtinate in his refuſal *to put the queſtion*, we were under the neceſſity, as the only alternative left us, to record our opinions ſeparately approving of the inſtructions.

144. The inſtructions were accordingly approved by a Majority of the Board, and tranſcribed fair for ſigning, together with a Letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, directing him to deliver over the command of Tanjore to Colonel Stuart on his arrival there.

145. On theſe Letters being preſented to Lord Pigot to be ſigned, he declared, that "Conformably to what he had before ſaid, he would "not put his name to them. That having made uſe of every argu- "ment in his power to diſſuade the Majority of the Council from "attempting to carry this meaſure into execution *without his concurrence*, "ſo he thought it his duty to the Company, his friendſhip to the dif- "ferent Members, and his regard to the good order and government of "the Settlement, to deſire that they would not proceed further therein; "and to declare, as his opinion, that *without his name* to thoſe orders, "they were not the *Act of Government*, and men executing ſuch orders

 "might

" might be liable to difficulties, which he wiſhed the different Members " to be as ſenſible of as himſelf."

146. The ſame moderation and forbearance which we had hitherto obſerved prevailed on us in this inſtance to adjourn the Council.]

147. Two days after, the Board being aſſembled, we gave in a Minute to the following purport: " That Lord Pigot having *refuſed*, in " Conſultation 19th Auguſt, *to put the queſtion* for taking into conſi- " deration the inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, we declared, that we con- " ſidered ſuch *refuſal* as inconſiſtent with the rules of the ſervice, and " *tending* to *ſubvert* the *Conſtitution*; but unwilling to proceed in haſte on " a matter of ſo much importance, that we had moved the adjournment " of Council till the next day, when we ſtill found his Lordſhip aſſerting " doctrines deſtructive of the principles of the conſtitution. That we " could not but expreſs our aſtoniſhment at ſuch extraordinary decla- " rations as he then made. We denied that the *concurrence* of the Preſi- " dent was neceſſary to conſtitute an *Act* of *Government*; and we declared " his *conduct* to be *unconſtitutional* and *illegal*. We had not a doubt that " the Minority of the Board were *obliged* to aſſiſt in carrying *into exe-* " *cution* the orders of the Majority, and that the Preſident was as much " *bound* by thoſe orders, as any other Member of the Board. But as " he had thought proper, contrary to the eſtabliſhed rules of the ſervice, " to *declare poſitively* he *would not ſign* the inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, " though thoſe inſtructions had been *approved* by a Majority of the Board, " and *thereby* became an Act of Government; yet, willing to give fur- " ther time for the conſideration of ſo weighty a matter, he had moved " the adjournment of Council. Previous however to the proſecution " of the buſineſs in queſtion, as a *refuſal to put queſtions* would retard, if " not *totally ſtop the execution* of every meaſure not conformable to his " Lordſhip's ſentiments, we declared we were of opinion, that in " any caſe of the Preſident's *refuſal* to put a queſtion propoſed by any " Member, it was the duty of the ſecretary to put *that* queſtion, " beginning firſt with the youngeſt Member, and the duty of every " Member of Council to *anſwer* ſuch queſtion; and that a *refuſal* to " *anſwer* ſhould be deemed a *breach of the Company's* ſtanding orders. 22d Auguſt.

148. And to elucidate the points in queſtion, we annexed extracts from Mr. Vanſittart's narration, wherein that gentleman, who was well acquainted with the conſtitution of your ſervice, expreſsly declares, that he ſigned inſtructions when Governor of Bengal which he diſapproved, acting therein conformably to the eſtabliſhed rule of the ſervice, which

is,

is, " That every Member ſhall ſign the public orders and records, " entering his diſſent when he differs in opinion from the Majority;" and that the " Reſolutions of the Majority were to be deemed the Reſo- " lutions of the Board, and to be ſigned by the whole Board." Narrative, vol. ii. p. 233; vol. iii. p. 137. Mr. Floyer likewiſe ſtated to us a circumſtance immediately in point, when Mr. Cartier, the then Governor of Bengal, and Mr. Ruſſell and himſelf, met with the pointed reſentment of the Court of Directors for their conduct in oppoſition to a Majority of the Council. The Minutes given in by Mr. Floyer on this occaſion make a number in the packet, and merit your particular attention.

149. Lord Pigot then addreſſed himſelf to us in the following words:

150. " The Majority having proceeded ſo far on Tueſday laſt, as to " bring the inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, and the Letter to Lieutenant- " Colonel Harper, to the point of ſigning, and he, the Preſident, having " refuſed to put his name thereto, recommending that the gentlemen of " the Majority would pleaſe to conſider whether it were not prudent in " them to proceed no further; and remarking, at the ſame time, what " difficulties men were liable to executing ſuch orders, as in his opinion " were not an Act of Government, without his name being affixed to " them. And having had the ſatisfaction then to find, that the ſeveral " Members wiſhed to give this matter full conſideration, by deſiring an " adjournment of two days, and receiving now the ſtill greater ſatisfaction " of finding no gentleman urge the proſecution thereof, he, the Pre- " ſident, hopes that he may be ſo fortunate as to meet the Board " inclined to let this matter reſt until the pleaſure of their Honorable " Maſters is known, and therefore recommends that they will do ſo. " The Preſident further adds, that it ſeems to him quite neceſſary that " ſomething deciſive ſhould make its appearance before our Honorable " Maſters, that they may not, on the arrival of the Grenville, remain " with fears that this is a ſore only patched up, ready to break out afreſh " to the great detriment and bad government of their affairs."

151. Having already given our opinion, approving of the inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, and reflecting on the tendency of the arguments and declarations made by his Lordſhip in ſupport of his having the power *to put a negative* upon all acts of the Majority he did not approve, and that, by virtue of ſuch negative, no meaſure of the Majority of the Board could be deemed an Act of Government, and conſequently could not be carried into execution; we reſolved, if his Lordſhip ſhould ſtill perſiſt in his

his refuſal to ſign the inſtructions, that they ſhould be ſigned by the Secretary by order of the Council.

152. Having thus given our opinion, we called on Lord Pigot in a joint Minute which we all ſigned, to direct the Secretary to ſign the Letters to Colonel Stuart and Lieutenant-Colonel Harper; and on his refuſing to give ſuch directions, we declared we looked upon ourſelves, being a Majority, as authorized to order him to ſign them, and accordingly wrote the following Letter:

To Mr. Secretary Sulivan.

SIR,

" WE, the Majority of the Board, having approved of the inſtructions " to Colonel Stuart and the Letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, and " the Preſident not only having refuſed to ſign them himſelf, but alſo " refuſed to order you to do it, we are reduced to the diſagreeable " neceſſity of directing you to ſign the ſaid Inſtructions and Letter *by* " *Order of Council,* and ſend them to Colonel Stuart.

Fort St. George,
22d Auguſt 1776.

(Signed) GEORGE STRATTON,
HENRY BROOKE.

153. As ſoon as this Letter was ſigned by Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke, Lord Pigot ſnatched it out of the hand of the latter, as he was paſſing it round to the other Members of the Majority for their ſignatures, and at the ſame inſtant, taking a paper out of his pocket, obſerved to the Board, " That having frequently entreated them not to carry this matter " further, but to wait the determination of the Court of Directors, he " would *now ſtop it where it was*; and then read the contents of the " paper as followeth:"

154. " I charge George Stratton and Henry Brooke, Eſquires, of " being guilty of an act ſubverſive of the authority of Government, and " tending to introduce anarchy, in the ſigning orders to the Secretary " to give inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, which have not been approved " and paſſed by the Preſident and Council."

155. Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke thereupon thought it neceſſary to record, that they would not admit of the foregoing being a *charge*, as it

was for their ſigning a paper agreed upon by the Majority of the Board, as expreſſed by Meſſieurs Stratton, Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, who were on the point of ſigning the order, had they not been prevented by Lord Pigot's ſnatching the paper in the manner above-mentioned.

156. As the Minute given in by Lord Pigot contained, as he expreſſed himſelf, a charge of the higheſt nature againſt Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, he recommended, that thoſe gentlemen ſhould be ordered to withdraw, that their conduct might be taken into conſideration.

157. Mr. Jourdan moved, and Mr. Mackay ſeconded the Motion, that the Board ſhould adjourn till the next morning at ten o'clock.

158. This Motion however was not attended to by Lord Pigot, who, as ſoon as it had been written down by the Secretary, moved that the Board ſhould come to the following Reſolution:

159. "Reſolved, That George Stratton and Henry Brooke, Eſquires, "be now ſuſpended from the Company's ſervice until the Company's "pleaſure ſhall be known."

Mr. Mackay, againſt the reſolution.
Mr. Jourdan, againſt the reſolution.
Mr. Palmer, againſt the reſolution.
Mr. Stone, for the reſolution.
Mr. Floyer, againſt the reſolution.
Mr. Dalrymple, for the reſolution.
Mr. Ruſſell, for the reſolution.

160. The Secretary was here ordered by Lord Pigot "To take no "vote either from Mr. Brooke or Mr. Stratton on the queſtion before "the Board, as the ſtanding orders of the Company direct, that no Mem-"ber ſhall ſit in Council when a charge is delivered in againſt him."

The Preſident, Lord Pigot, for the Reſolution.

And as, on caſting up the votes, it appeared they were equal four to four, the Preſident deſired that it might be recorded, that, beſides his vote, he gave his caſting voice for the Reſolution.

161. It was carried accordingly *for* the Reſolution by Lord Pigot's caſting voice.

162. It

162. It is however here neceſſary to remark to your Honors, that the reaſon of our giving any vote whatſoever on ſo extraordinary a queſtion, proceeded from our conviction, that if we had refuſed to vote, Lord Pigot would have contented himſelf with the votes of his three friends and his own, and have deemed them ſufficient to carry this illegal attempt to ſuſpend Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke; and we were poſitive in point of legality, by voting upon the queſtion we ſhould have fruſtrated ſo daring an attempt to ſuſpend thoſe two gentlemen upon this ground, that if the accuſed were prevented voting, the admiſſion of the accuſer's vote, upon the ſame principle, could not poſſibly have been admitted.

163. Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke delivered in Minutes on the occaſion againſt the Reſolution; but the Secretary being ordered by his Lordſhip not to take either the vote of Mr. Stratton or of Mr. Brooke, thoſe Minutes were omitted in the Conſultation in conſequence of poſitive directions from his Lordſhip.

164. A proteſt againſt the illegality of the proceedings, which thoſe gentlemen wrote at the time, was likewiſe omitted by his Lordſhip's orders, who with his own hand ſcratched out the Minutes made by the Secretary in conſequence in the draught of the Conſultation of that day.

165. Meſſieurs Mackay, Jourdan, Palmer, and Floyer ſolemnly proteſted againſt Lord Pigot, and thoſe gentlemen who were for the Reſolution, declaring the meaſures to be the moſt arbitrary ever known at a Board under an Engliſh Government, and ſolely intended *in an illegal manner to get rid* of the votes of thoſe gentlemen, that his Lordſhip might form a Majority for himſelf.

166. His Lordſhip however then adjourned the Council until the next morning at eleven o'clock, although we kept our ſeats, and declared to his Lordſhip unanimouſly, that the proceedings againſt Meſſieurs Brooke and Stratton were ſo *pointedly illegal and unjuſt*, that we ſhould, notwithſtanding his attempt to ſuſpend them, conſider them as Members of the Council in like manner as ourſelves.

167. On the afternoon of the 22d Auguſt, the day on which this happened, Lord Pigot directed the Secretary to ſend round a *ſpecial ſummons* for the Members of the Board to aſſemble in Council the next morning.

168. In

168. In this ſummons however Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke were not included, although the names of all the others were inſerted, as well as that of Mr. Richard Lathom, Chief of Cuddalore, who had been at the Preſidency for ſeveral days without ever having been deſired to attend the Board.

169. In this diſtracted ſtate of the Government, when Lord Pigot was by a moſt unparalleled act, attempting to uſurp all our conſtitutional rights, although we had obſerved the utmoſt moderation to avoid coming to extremities, we thought it expedient to write a Letter of proteſt to his Lordſhip and the other gentlemen, who had voted for the ſuſpenſion of Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke.

23d Auguſt. 170. We informed them, "That we, whoſe names were underwritten, "being of Council, and conſtituting a Majority thereof, taking into our "moſt ſerious conſideration the proceedings upon record at the two laſt "meetings, and more particularly the unexampled outrage offered to the "conſtitution, and arbitrary behaviour towards two of our number, by "an illegal attempt to ſuſpend them, in order by a trick to gain a Majority, were of opinion, that the public ſafety was in danger by the "conduct of Lord Pigot, Meſſieurs Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Stone, "who had ſupported, and by every perſon who ſhould continue to ſupport "ſuch meaſures, and we ſhould hold them reſponſible for all the conſequences that might enſue. That we the Majority conſidered ourſelves "as the only legal repreſentatives of the Honorable Company under the "Preſidency, and as ſuch we had not a doubt but all the ſervants of the "Company would regard us. That for theſe reaſons, and the evident "illegality of the ſummons to Council for that morning, in which were "omitted the names of Mr. George Stratton and Mr. Henry Brooke, "two legal Members of the Board, we could not, conſiſtently with the "duty we owed to our Honorable Employers, attend the ſaid ſummons."

171. We likewiſe judged it neceſſary to inform the Governor-General and Council of Bengal of the alarming ſtate of your affairs under this Government, and accordingly addreſſed them a Letter on the ſubject, to which we beg you will be referred.

23d Auguſt. 172. This Letter was conveyed to him under cover of a packet tranſmitted to that Preſidency by Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, who had informed us he would forward it to them in that manner.

173. By theſe meaſures it is evident his Lordſhip's views were, in an illegal and arbitrary manner, to ſecure a Majority, without which he knew his ſchemes could not be carried into execution. We found ourſelves under the neceſſity either of paſſively giving up our own rights, and the known conſtitution of Government, *and of becoming acceſſaries in all the evil conſequences which might enſue*, or by ſeparating ſhew, by the Letter we ſent by the hands of the Notary Public, that, as a Majority of the Council, we were reſolved in this extremity to maintain the conſtitutional rights of the Company, and to ſignify to all the Company's ſervants and dependents that we required from them ſubmiſſion to our legal orders.

174. In conſequence of this public act on our part, Lord Pigot proceeded immediately to *the violent meaſure* of ordering the Commander in Chief under arreſt, and of iſſuing Letters of ſuſpenſion to each of us, Meſſieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, who, with Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, compoſed the legal Majority of the Council.

175. At this time we had in full view, and under our moſt ſerious conſideration, the critical ſituation which the public affairs might be brought into, by the violent and arbitrary proceedings of a Preſident ſuch as Lord Pigot, who, from his commiſſion and local reſidence, was alſo Governor of the fort and garriſon, if time and opportunity had been left him to influence the military in ſupport of his illegal Government.

176. We alſo conſidered the very great probability that the remaining part of the army, not under the orders of Lord Pigot, perceiving the violence and injuſtice done to their Commander in chief, who was ordered in arreſt for ſupporting the civil conſtitution of the Company, and well knowing that the army in general, as well as every impartial perſon in the Settlement, were fully convinced that a Reſolution of the Majority of the Council was to them the only legal act of Government. We ſay therefore, that deliberating with anxious minds upon the chance of ſuch a dreadful criſis, as that the fort and garriſon of Fort St. George, with an arbitrary paſſionate man at their head, might poſſibly be ſeparated from the reſt of the Company's poſſeſſions on this Coaſt, and, that the Nabob of the Carnatic, who is the ally of the Crown of Great Britain and the Company, and who intruſts himſelf, his family and fortune, to the protection of the Fort, might by our paſſive delay be abandoned to the perſon whom he has reaſon to believe his bittereſt enemy; and deliberating further on the many dangerous conſequences which might reſult

and affect the ſafety of the State, if not the very exiſtence of the Company on this Coaſt; we could not heſitate a moment to reſume the executive powers of Government, in which we conceived ourſelves warranted not only by the legal conſtitution of the Company, but alſo by the ſupreme law of neceſſity.

177. When we reflect on the very alarming and critical alternative to which the deſpotic violence of Lord Pigot had compelled us, that of ſubmitting to an expulſion from your Government by a Minority of Members, and tamely ſurrendering ourſelves to the diſhonor, infidelity, and baſeneſs of deſerting our truſt, giving up the Nabob of the Carnatic, the ally of his Majeſty and the friend of the Company, to his inveterate and bitter enemy to be treated with diſgrace, under which he had declared he could not nor would not ſurvive; and giving up alſo perhaps the life of your Commander in Chief to an illegal and compulſory trial; or the alternative of attempting to reſcue your Government at the riſk of a convulſion: when we reflect on thoſe alternatives, to the deſperate choice of which we were left on the morning of the 24th of Auguſt, and when we now conſider how happily the peace of the colony and the adminiſtration of your affairs have been extricated from dangers ſo imminent, we can never ſufficiently approve the conduct of Colonel Stuart, who ſo ably and faithfully diſcharged his duty to you and your legal repreſentatives upon ſo trying an occaſion. Indeed we are at a loſs which moſt to admire, his generous ſelf-denial, in not accepting directly the command of the army from Lord Pigot, or the very maſterly manner in which he executed our determination. Our Secretary, Mr. Sulivan, declares, that in the whole converſation which paſſed between Colonel Stuart and Lord Pigot and his Counſellors in the Council Room on the evening of the 23d about his accepting the command, that he never heard him come to a direct acceptance of it; on the contrary, that the converſation of Colonel Stuart was ſo exceedingly evaſive as to cauſe him to remark the purport of it to Mr. Oakely, our Civil Secretary, a few minutes after Lord Pigot and Colonel Stuart had left the Council Chamber; Mr. Sulivan in particular recollects, that Colonel Stuart laid great ſtreſs on theſe words,— "It is true I have been paſſively Commander in Chief by your orders, "but I have yet executed no duty of the Commander in Chief." The ſingular addreſs which he afterwards ſhewed in conducting his Lordſhip to arreſt, was not only warranted by the occaſion, but was abſolutely neceſſary to the ſucceſs of the undertaking. What was ſo neceſſary to the ſucceſs of an undertaking, on which the peace of the colony and the Carnatic ſo apparently depended, cannot but reflect honor on the conduct

of

of a ſoldier executing his orders. Lord Pigot was in that criſis dangerous to the State, and in actual oppoſition to the authority which conſtituted his powers; but whoſe orders he had ſuperſeded, and whoſe ſyſtem he had violated, without even the pretext of connecting thoſe meaſures with the ſuppoſed idea of your intereſt.. We have directed Colonel Stuart to give us a faithful narrative of the manner in which he executed our orders, copy of which ſhall wait on your Honors a number in the packet, together with his Letter of the 24th Auguſt to Lord Pigot.

178. The orders we gave to Colonel Stuart were to the following effect: That uncertain to what further exceſs Lord Pigot might proceed unleſs timely prevented, we thought it our duty, if neceſſary, to arreſt his perſon, and in conſequence that we empowered him (Colonel Stuart) on whom, during the unhappy indiſpoſition of Sir Robert Fletcher, we conferred the command of the army as well as of the garriſon of Fort St. George, during the preſent danger, to take ſuch meaſures as to him ſhould appear proper to place the Fort, Garriſon, and Fort-houſe, under our command, ſo that the public tranquillity might be reſtored, and the buſineſs of the Honorable Company carried on in the uſual manner. That we further ordered and directed him, if he ſaw neceſſary, to arreſt the perſon of Lord Pigot, or of any other perſon who ſhould obſtruct him in the execution of our orders; and that for theſe ſalutary purpoſes we directed all the Company's ſervants, civil or military, and all perſons who lived under the protection of this Government, to give him every aid and aſſiſtance in their power.

179. In conſequence of theſe our orders, Colonel Stuart arreſted the perſon of Lord Pigot, and delivered him into the charge of Major Horne, commanding at St. Thomas's Mount, with poſitive directions that his Lordſhip ſhould be treated with every mark of attention and reſpect. 24th Auguſt.

180. On the report of Colonel Stuart, that Lord Pigot was in arreſt at the Mount, and that all the military officers in the fort had declared it to be their duty and reſolution to obey all orders they might receive from us, the Majority of the Council, or the Majority for the time being, we immediately repaired to the Council Chamber in the Fort-houſe, and having aſſembled the military officers of the garriſon, read to them our Proclamation on the occaſion, when they unanimouſly confirmed to us the report of Colonel Stuart. A copy of the proclamation comes a number in the packet. Ibid.

181. The

181. The next morning likewiſe all the Company's ſervants, both civil and military, and the inhabitants, being aſſembled at the Council Chamber, the Proclamation was read to them, and copies of it iſſued to all the ſubordinacies and out-garriſons.

182. Taking into conſideration the very illegal and unconſtitutional conduct obſerved by Meſſieurs Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Stone, in the ſupport they gave to every meaſure of Lord Pigot, but particularly in the attempt to expel us, the Majority of the Board, which convinced us no dependence could be placed in them, and conſidering likewiſe how much the Company had ſuffered through the conduct they had purſued, we found ourſelves reduced to the neceſſity of ſuſpending them from your ſervice.

183. Mr. Richard Lathom likewiſe having concurred in opinion with Lord Pigot, Meſſieurs Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Stone, for the illegal attempt to ſuſpend Meſſieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, and in the Reſolution of ordering Brigadier-General Sir Robert Fletcher under arreſt, and thereby admitting the legality of the ſuppoſed ſuſpenſions of Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke on the 22d Auguſt, as well as his
25th Auguſt. having concurred in the other meaſures recited in the examination of Mr. Secretary Sulivan, we unanimouſly reſolved to ſuſpend him alſo from the ſervice of the Company until your pleaſure ſhould be known.

27th Auguſt. 184. Having received information from Colonel Stuart, that he had reaſon to apprehend there was ſome tampering with the troops ſtationed at St. Thomas's Mount by perſons in the intereſt of Lord Pigot and his aſſociates, we could not but be anxious for the conſequences which might enſue; taking therefore into our moſt ſerious conſideration the many evils that might ariſe from the violent diſpoſitions manifeſted by Lord Pigot's aſſociates ſince his removal to the Mount, their indefatigable purſuits in attempting to ſow diſaffection as well in the civil as the military ſervants of the Company within the fort, the attempt made by Mr. Claud Ruſſell to ſtir up ſedition amongſt the troops in garriſon, together with the apprehenſion expreſſed by Colonel Stuart, were circumſtances which afforded too great cauſe of ſuſpicion that Lord Pigot and others would perſiſt in the meaſure of ſeducing the troops at the Mount, and that his Lordſhip's reſidence there might furniſh the ready means of creating diſturbances. The fortreſs of Chingleput, diſtant about thirty-ſix miles from Madraſs, appearing in every reſpect a more eligible place for Lord Pigot's reſidence during his being under arreſt, as well in point of the

the ſalubriety of that place, as in his being removed at ſuch a diſtance from the fort of Madraſs, as to render any attempts that might be made by his Lordſhip and friends for diſturbing the public tranquillity much more difficult than it might be in his reſidence at the Mount; we were therefore of opinion, that Lord Pigot ſhould, as ſoon as poſſible, be removed to Chingleput; and in order that his Lordſhip might meet with every poſſible mark of reſpect and attention, and for his better reſidence there, we appointed a field-officer to the command of that garriſon.

185. Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Adjutant-General, was accordingly employed to receive his Lordſhip from Major Horne at the Mount; his Lordſhip however peremptorily refuſed going, and that in ſuch a manner as will clearly evince you the violence of his Lordſhip's diſpoſition. Copies of the affidavits of Colonel Edington and Serjeant Shaw now wait on you numbers in the Packet for that purpoſe.

186. We were extremely concerned to find, that in conſequence of this Reſolution a report ſhould have been propagated by Lord Pigot and his friends, that he was to have been removed to Gingee; we accordingly took the earlieſt opportunity of aſſuring him by Letter, that no ſuch idea ever did or ever could occur to us. We likewiſe made him an offer of removing to any Settlement upon the coaſt that he ſhould give a preference to, where there was a Chief and Council, provided he would pledge his word of honor to remain in quietneſs within the bounds of ſuch Settlement until your pleaſure ſhould be known concerning his Lordſhip's conduct and our's reſpectively. That if his Lordſhip ſhould be pleaſed to conſent to this propoſal, we ſhould order the beſt houſe in ſuch Settlement to be prepared for his reception, that every neceſſary be furniſhed him at the Company's expenſe, and that every reſpect and attention be paid to his perſon. We at the ſame time thought it neceſſary to add, that if his Lordſhip ſhould prefer embarking for Europe on one of the Company's ſhips, we would order him every accommodation in our power. 28th Auguſt,

187. The information we had of the declarations made by Lord Pigot to the military, which, added to the very violent and irregular proceedings of Mr. Ruſſell, who on the day of our reſuming the Government had endeavoured to put the main guard of the garriſon under arms, and was by force brought from thence before the Council, where he publickly denied our authority; knowing moreover, by our experience, the violent temper of Lord Pigot, who, if at liberty, would run every riſk to recover the Government; theſe circumſtances forced us, contrary to our private feelings, to uſe an expreſſion to Major Horne, "As your laſt reſource,

" in any attempt to reſcue Lord Pigot, his life muſt anſwer for it, and " this you are to ſignify to him;" which we imagined would deter Lord Pigot's friends and family from encouraging any attempts towards his reſcue; however we loſt no time to make Lord Pigot and his family eaſy on that ſubject, as was evident from our intention to remove his Lordſhip to Chingleput, and by our Letter to him of the 28th Auguſt; but in truth there could be no doubt in his Lordſhip's breaſt of the humane good feelings of Major Horne, to whom, *in terrorem*, this part of the order was given purpoſely to be communicated to Lord Pigot, only that he might prevent any attempts to reſcue him; and we think it has had the effect we looked for.

188. The affidavits of Lieutenant-Colonel Edington and Serjeant Shaw gave us every reaſon to believe, that if Lord Pigot had it in his power, he would not only have raiſed a mutiny in the army, but put himſelf at the head of an armed party, and march with them to the Fort, though he fell in the attempt;—needed there any other argument for perſons in our reſponſible ſituation to take every means poſſible, though at times with ſtrong expreſſions, to prevent any attempts, however fruitleſs, to involve this Settlement in convulſion and civil war?

189. To the Letter above-mentioned, which we addreſſed to his Lordſhip, we have as yet received no reply, ſo that his Lordſhip's continuance at the Mount, in preference to any other of the Settlements of the Company on the Coaſt, or to embarking on board one of their ſhips for Europe, is a matter entirely of his own choice.

28th Auguſt. 190. On the ſame day that we wrote to Lord Pigot, we received a Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, informing us, that Lord Pigot had claimed the protection of the King's flag, and in conſequence, that he required in his Majeſty's name, that Major Horne ſhould be ordered to give his Lordſhip ſafe conduct to his Majeſty's ſhip the Saliſbury.

26th Auguſt. 191. Previous to the receipt of this Letter, we had explained to Sir Edward Hughes, in the fulleſt manner, the ſituation that affairs were in, and the cauſes which had driven us to the neceſſity of putting Lord Pigot in arreſt, as your Honors will be pleaſed to obſerve on reference to our Letter to Sir Edward of the 26th Auguſt.

4th September. 192. In conſequence of the above requiſition of Sir Edward Hughes, we informed him, that having taken his Letter into our moſt ſerious conſideration, we thought it neceſſary, before we returned a preciſe and poſitive

poſitive anſwer, to requeſt he would be pleaſed to inform us, what ſecurity he could give us, who were intruſted with the intereſts and affairs of the Company under this Preſidency, and with the preſervation of the public peace, that the tranquillity of the Coaſt, ſo perfectly eſtabliſhed, ſhould not be endangered by our conſenting to the removal of Lord Pigot from under our own authority.

193. To this Sir Edward replied, that the requiſition and ſafe conduct for Lord Pigot to his ſhip being made by him in the name of the King, and as no terms could therefore be admitted on which to ground a compliance with that requiſition, it followed, that no other anſwer could be given by him, who was intruſted with the honor and dignity of his Majeſty's flag, to our queſtion, than a repetition of what he before required, and which he then again required of us in the King's name, that Major Horne ſhould be ordered to give Lord Pigot ſafe conduct to the Saliſbury, his Lordſhip having repeated his claim of protection from his Majeſty's flag. 6th September.

194. In reply to this Letter, we begged leave to obſerve to Sir Edward Hughes, that Lord Pigot having, as appeared from facts already publiſhed, by his illegal and arbitrary conduct ſubverted the conſtitution of the Company, and cauſed confuſion and diviſion in the Settlement, the maintenance of the Company's orders, as well as the neceſſity of public affairs, in our opinion, juſtified the ſteps which had been taken to prevent the further progreſs of ſuch proceedings. That the experience we had had of Lord Pigot's violent and impetuous diſpoſition (of which we gave ſtriking proofs in the affidavits of Lieutenant-Colonel Edington and Serjeant Shaw, read to Sir Edward at the Board, and of which he himſelf had ſo recent an inſtance in the Letter of complaint written to him by the Nabob the 3d June) obliged us to put ſuch reſtraints upon his Lordſhip's perſon as the public peace ſeemed to require; and from the ſame motives we were induced, in anſwer to his Letter, to requeſt he would inform us what ſecurity he could give, that the tranquillity of the Coaſt ſhould not be endangered, by our conſenting to the removal of Lord Pigot from under our own authority. That ſince he was pleaſed to decline giving to us any ſecurity whatſoever in conſequence of that requeſt, that we were under the neceſſity of acquainting him, that we could not, conſiſtently with the important truſt repoſed in us, comply with the requiſition he had again repeated, that Major Horne ſhould be ordered to give Lord Pigot ſafe conduct to his ſhip. That as loyal ſubjects to his Majeſty, and faithful ſervants to the Company, we ſhould always ſhew the greateſt veneration to the ſacred name of his Majeſty, and the utmoſt reſpect to the Britiſh flag, but that having no proof Ibid.

before us, that his Majeſty empowered any of his officers to require the removal of any ſervant of the Company, in a ſimilar ſituation with Lord Pigot, from under the authority of the Company's Government, we begged leave to add that as another reaſon why we would not comply with the requiſition he had made.

9th September. 195. We received a final anſwer from Sir Edward Hughes, wherein he ſays, that he ſhould have been diſappointed to have been told we had any proofs before us, that his Majeſty had empowered any of his officers to require the removal of any ſervant of the Company, in a ſimilar ſituation with Lord Pigot, from under the authority of the Company's Government, as he believed the caſe to be unexampled. That as we thought we could not, conſiſtently with the important truſt repoſed in us, comply with the requiſition made by him in the name of his Majeſty, a name by him deemed very high ſecurity, and which he had a power to uſe in national concerns of the utmoſt importance, and as he felt in his own mind that he had done his duty to his Majeſty and to his country in making the requiſition, he had only to add, that we had taken on ourſelves any and all the ill conſequences which might ariſe from the refuſal.

196. Before we quit this ſubject, it may not be unneceſſary to remark to your Honors, that having furniſhed Sir Edward Hughes, immediately after our reſuming the executive powers of Government, with a copy of the proclamation, and extracts of our Conſultations explaining the motives of our conduct, he addreſſed us a Letter in anſwer to one which accompanied thoſe papers, wherein he ſays, "That being ordered by his Majeſty to communicate confidentially with the Government of this Preſidency for the good of the common cauſe, and for the welfare and intereſt of the Company, he ſhould join in all meaſures tending to thoſe deſirable ends, whenever we might find proper to call upon him for aſſiſtance."

197. Having now given your Honors a complete and faithful narrative of our proceedings, we ſhall beg leave to make ſome few remarks thereon.

198. The facts here laid before you ſpeak ſo ſtrongly for themſelves, and we have ſo much confidence in the juſtice and candor with which they will be examined, that we feel no pain about the event.

199. The

199. The conduct we have purſued, from the time theſe unhappy diviſions firſt appeared, has been directed ſolely to your intereſt and advantage. Whilſt forbearance and moderation were capable of ſtemming the violence which oppoſed us, we obſerved them to a degree bordering upon a miſtaken lenity. We knew our own powers as a Majority of your Council were efficient. We might have cruſhed the firſt attempts that were made upon our conſtitutional rights, and perhaps it would have been better if we had done ſo; but wiſhing above all things to avoid extremities, we proceeded upon the plan of moderation we had adopted in the beginning, the only effect of which was to haſten thoſe violent and illegal proceedings that ſoon after followed.

200. Your Honors will perceive, on reference to our Minutes, that Lord Pigot began early to maintain very extraordinary opinions concerning his authority as Preſident of the Council; he declared that no Reſolution of the Majority could paſs into an act without his concurrence; that he would refuſe to put queſtions regularly moved by any Member of the Board; that he would adjourn the Council when he pleaſed, though contrary to the opinion of the Majority; that he was at liberty to refuſe ſigning any Letter agreed upon by a Majority, if he himſelf diſapproved of it; that all buſineſs of the Board muſt originate with him, and nothing could be deemed an Act of Government without his concurrence.

201. We may ſafely venture to affirm, that none of theſe poſitions can be ſupported on any ground whatſoever. They are expreſsly contrary to the Commiſſion of Government, to the ſtanding orders of the Company, and to the univerſal practice of all your Preſidencies. They tend ſeparately and collectively to take away all authority from the Council, and to place it in the hands of the Preſident only. No man *can prudently* be truſted with ſuch unlimited power in the management of your affairs; want of capacity, integrity, or judgment, might involve them in ruin before any remedy could be applied.

202. But fortunately for the Company, the ſyſtem of Government which they have eſtabliſhed is founded on wiſer principles, and laid down too clearly to be miſtaken. The Commiſſion of Government veſts the ſupreme direction of the Company's affairs under this Preſidency, ſubject to the reſtrictions of the late Act of Parliament, in a Preſident and Council, or the major part of them. The Governor's ſeparate commiſſion of Governor and Commander in Chief of the Fort commands him to obey all orders he may receive from the Board. The ſtanding orders of the Company are in theſe words: "Whatever ſhall be agreed on by the Majority

" ſhall be eſteemed the order by which each one is to act, and accordingly " every individual perſon, even the diſſenters themſelves, are to perform " their parts in proſecution thereof; and in ſo doing they do their duty, " and muſt not be blamed for the event." And the late Act of Parliament for eſtabliſhing certain regulations for the better management of the affairs of the Eaſt-India Company, as well in Europe as in India, expreſsly ſays, " And be it enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that in all caſes wherein " any difference of opinion ſhall ariſe upon any Queſtion propoſed in Con- " ſultation, the ſaid Governor-General and Council ſhall be bound and " concluded by the opinion and deciſion of the major part of thoſe " preſent."

203. Your Honors may well ſuppoſe we were exceedingly alarmed at the doctrines inſiſted on by Lord Pigot in oppoſition to theſe orders, with which he was perfectly acquainted. We knew the violence of his temper, and were apprehenſive of the effect. Our conduct on this trying occaſion was moderate, yet we hope ſufficiently firm. We reſolved at all events to aſſert the conſtitutional rights of the Government. Lord Pigot on his part was obſtinately fixed to his purpoſe, and finding that all other efforts to overcome our reſolutions were vain, he proceeded, in direct violation of your orders, and of every principle of juſtice, to that moſt extraordinary act, by which he attempted to force Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke from the Council.

204. The ſcheme was preconcerted, and the paper which he brought forth, and read as a charge againſt thoſe gentlemen, was prepared before the order to the Secretary was ſigned by any Member of the Board. We beg your particular attention to this part of the Proceedings. The act on which Lord Pigot founded what he terms a charge, was the act of a Majority of the Board, intended to give effect to a reſolution formally paſſed; every Member of the Majority therefore was equally concerned with Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, and Lord Pigot might with equal juſtice have read the ſame charge againſt them all.

205. Your Honors will be pleaſed to obſerve, that the order to the Secretary to ſign the inſtructions to Colonel Stuart was written in conſequence of Lord Pigot's refuſing to put his name to them, and declaring that they could have no effect without his ſignature, although they were approved by the Majority. This expedient was propoſed out of tenderneſs to Lord Pigot, who by ſuch refuſal had afforded grounds for a real charge againſt himſelf; yet ſtanding in this predicament, he could without

the leaſt remorſe conſtrue an act of delicacy and tenderneſs towards himſelf into a crime, upon which, by the ſame inhumanity, he propoſed to ruin thoſe gentlemen whom he charged with; and notwithſtanding he deprived them of their voices, could vote himſelf, although the accuſer.

206. Without conſidering the unparalleled violence of this whole proceeding, by which Lord Pigot attempted to free himſelf from the reſtraint of thoſe who oppoſed him, we appeal to your Honors whether a man, who could ſhew ſo great a depravity of mind, was fit to be truſted in that high office, wherein his power to do injury was equal to his inclination.

207. We confeſs that the conduct of Lord Pigot was ſo alarming to us, that we could not think of acting any longer in conjunction with him. When he had proceeded ſo far as to declare Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke ſuſpended from the ſervice, to publiſh that pretended ſuſpenſion to the military in general orders, by his own authority, as the Act of the Preſident and Council, and to leave the names of thoſe two gentlemen out of the ſummons for aſſembling the Council the next day, we then plainly ſaw he was determined, at every riſk and by every violence, to ſecure a Majority; and as we had proteſted againſt the illegality of the proceeding relative to Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, we could not with any propriety attend a ſummons in which their names were left out. And indeed we have great reaſon to believe, if we had gone to Council with Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, and claimed the ſeats of thoſe two gentlemen, that an order was to have been given by Lord Pigot to ſeize them by a military force, a meaſure which would have effectually anſwered his Lordſhip's purpoſes.

208. We cannot doubt but the arguments uſed in the courſe of this Addreſs will be ſufficiently ſtrong to convince you, that the meaſures we have taken were indiſpenſably neceſſary in this dangerous and critical ſituation of your Government. Could we have thought that any expedient leſs firm and deciſive would have had the ſame effect, we ſhould certainly have adopted it; but we truſt, upon a due conſideration of all the circumſtances, that the remedy will not appear too violent for the diſeaſe. A man who ſo far forgets his duty to his Employers as to proceed in open defiance of their orders and authority, violates that commiſſion under which he acts, and wilfully throws himſelf out of their protection; but if, under the ſanction of that authority, he aſſumes to himſelf unwarrantable powers, and employs thoſe powers in breaking through every principle of the conſtitution, in attempts to deſtroy the public rights, and ruin the fortunes of men who are acting in the defence of it; when ſuch a man, knowing himſelf

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armed with an unlawful authority, deliberately orders the Commander in Chief, one of thoſe perſons in arreſt, not for any military act, but for ſupporting the conſtitution in his civil capacity as a Member of Govern... and exhibits a pretended charge againſt him, probably to affect his life; we ſay, in ſuch circumſtances as theſe, when the State was in the moſt imminent danger, what other alternative was left us?

209. The conduct of Lord Pigot towards the Nabob has been ſo hoſtile and oppreſſive, that we cannot help requeſting your particular attention to it. You have always conſidered it as a point of the utmoſt conſequence to your welfare and proſperity in India, and indeed it really is, to cultivate the friendſhip of this prince. His early connexion with the Company, and the ſervices he has rendered them, claimed your diſtinguiſhed regard and protection, and he has hitherto had the good fortune to experience them to the utmoſt extent of his wiſhes; but the treatment he has received from Lord Pigot perſonally has been ſo diſgraceful, ſo unworthy his dignity as a prince, and his faithful attachment as a friend and ally of the Engliſh Nation, that it calls for the ſtrongeſt marks of your reſentment.

210. When this part of Lord Pigot's conduct comes under your conſideration, we beg your reference to the Letter and Reſolutions of the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, which are ſtrong and pointed on the ſubject; they wait on you numbers in the packet. If any further proof were required to ſhew the fatal conſequences to be apprehended from Lord Pigot's violence to the Nabob, we, who were witneſſes to the whole courſe of his proceedings, can take upon ourſelves to declare ſolemnly, that we think the Nabob would have been driven to the laſt extremity of deſpair, had Lord Pigot ſucceeded in his raſh and violate attempts; nay to ſuch a diſtracted ſtate of mind was his Highneſs at length reduced, that he has been repeatedly heard to ſay, in the preſence of his friends, that the perſonal ill-treatment of Lord Pigot would be the cauſe of his death, for that he neither could nor would ſurvive the indignity and public diſgrace that his Lordſhip was daily loading him with; and this too at a time when the material buſineſs of Tanjore was concluded, and his Lordſhip had nothing in commiſſion from the Board to tranſact with his Highneſs. Proofs of this we can produce, as well as of a declaration made by the Nabob, before ſeveral reſpectable characters, "That being determined not to live, "his friends muſt bear witneſs that Lord Pigot was the cauſe of his "death."

211. The ſituation of the Nabob, ſince the arrival of your orders reſpecting Tanjore, has been full of uneaſineſs. Thoſe orders were conceived by him to be moſt degrading to his dignity and honour; he ſenſibly felt them as ſuch; yet his feelings never betrayed him into any act, nor even into any expreſſion, the leaſt inconſiſtent with his friendſhip and regard for the Company.—It was upon this account we were the more deſirous of carrying your orders into execution with the greateſt delicacy and attention; but Lord Pigot, to whom this important buſineſs was intruſted, giving way to the violence of his temper, and inflamed by every little oppoſition he met with, committed the moſt flagrant acts of inſult and injuſtice upon the Nabob's managers and ſervants; yet ſo ſtrong has been the Nabob's attachment to the Company, ſo ſenſible hath he been of their paſt favour and protection, that even theſe repeated provocations only drew from him repreſentations, complaining, indeed, in very ſtrong terms of the conduct of Lord Pigot, but expreſſing the utmoſt confidence in the friendſhip and juſtice of the Company. And, upon this occaſion, it may be neceſſary to add, that the Nabob ſent poſitive orders to all his managers and officers, to take care, at their peril, that none of his Seapoys ſhould fire a muſket, or otherwiſe oppoſe any orders his Lordſhip might think proper to give; and the ſame injunctions were given to all his principal people.

212. In the preſent unhappy ſituation of public affairs at home, it is poſſible we may be involved in a war with France, and that this Coaſt might early feel the effects of it; it appears therefore of the greateſt importance to you to ſtrengthen and improve that connexion with the Nabob, which has been ſo much endangered by the raſh and imprudent conduct of Lord Pigot, and to which our conſtant attention ſhall be paid.

213. And here we think it neceſſary to remark, that although the Nabob and this Government have ſometimes differed on matters of real importance, yet we believe, from the conduct he has obſerved at a time when he looked upon himſelf as injured in the greateſt degree by your orders relative to Tanjore, that his diſpoſition towards the Engliſh Nation and the Company is ſuch as may be depended upon, as his preſent ſituation differs greatly from what it was laſt year. It were to be wiſhed, indeed, that the Nabob would conſent to the maintenance of a general force for the defence of the Carnatic, but we fear the preſent time is not favourable for it. His infantry, it is true, by being diſperſed loſe their diſcipline; but his cavalry, if occaſion ſhould require, might be found of real ſervice in the field; and we have every reaſon to believe, that if his aſſiſtance were required, he would moſt readily grant it to us. No reduc-

tion however of his troops can at this time be made, as the increaſing power of Hyder Ally Cawn, and the poſſibility of a war with France, make it neceſſary, for the ſecurity of the Carnatic, that the preſent eſtabliſhment of his forces ſhould be kept up.

214. Your Honours will no doubt attend to Lord Pigot's arguments againſt the admiſſion of a previous queſtion moved by Sir Robert Fletcher; but we appeal to you, if we had any other mode of knowing whether the Board would or would not allow us a day to conſider, before we were forced to vote upon a queſtion for the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore, a meaſure which was altogether new and extraordinary, and appeared to be in direct contradiction (as the Governor-General and Council of Bengal have ſince declared) both to the ſpirit and letter of your orders. But here it is worthy of remark, that notwithſtanding the late Preſident's refuſal to put the previous queſtion moved by Sir Robert Fletcher, and his arguments *againſt all* previous queſtions, he was the perſon himſelf *who moved* the previous queſtion, to which no one objected, upon one of Mr. Mackay's motions in theſe words, " That Mr. Mackay's queſtion be " now put"; and you will likewiſe obſerve, a very extraordinary amendment by Lord Pigot upon one of Mr. Mackay's motions, which but ill agrees with his Lordſhip's arguments in his letter to your Honours, when he attempts to ſhew the difference between this Board and Public Aſſemblies.

215. But indeed the whole of Lord Pigot's conduct from the beginning has indicated a determined reſolution in his Lordſhip to act in ſuch manner as he ſhould think proper, without adverting to the conſtitution or even the eſtabliſhed rules and uſage of the ſervice; a remarkable inſtance of which occurred in his falſifying the public records of the Company. The day on which our letter to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, that accompanied copies of our proceedings relative to Tanjore was read, we, the majority of the Board, directed the addition of two paragraphs to the letter; but Lord Pigot *requeſting* they might not be added, we entered a minute, which was twice read, to this effect: " That the Preſident requeſting the paragraph ſhould " not be added, the majority, out of compliment to him, reſolved not " to inſert them in the letter, but to enter them on the proceedings of " that day, for the information of the Government-General at Bengal." Theſe words were however erazed the next day by his own hand, without our knowledge, and the following inſerted: " The Preſident objecting thereto, they ſtand only in this place.

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216. This alteration of the records, which he never communicated to us, is a ſtrong mark of the illegal conduct of Lord Pigot, and the conſequences which might enſue are too obvious to require enlarging upon; yet, when we reflect upon his ſaying at the Board, he would *ſuppreſs or deſtroy*, when he ſhould think proper, any letter addreſſed to the Preſident and Council, without ever communicating their contents to the Board; and on his repeated declarations, when ſeated as Preſident at the head of the Council, "That the late Act of Parliament, for the better management "of the affairs of the Eaſt-India Company, was *a vile act*," and that "The inſtructions of the Company to the Governor-General and Coun- "cil of Bengal, which are equally binding upon this Preſidency, were "*vile inſtructions*," we had every reaſon to apprehend his whole conduct would be governed by ſuch principles; and the more particularly ſo, as he had violated both in many inſtances; one of which will, we hope, clearly evince to your Honours the truth of the aſſertion.

217. On the 28th of March we received a letter from the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, acquainting us, that the miniſterial party of the Marattas at Poonah would not liſten to the propoſals made to them by Colonel Upton, who had been deputed thither by the Government-General, and in ſhort that they were determined to hear of peace on no conditions, that ſhould not be excluſively honourable and advantageous to themſelves. That the miniſters having reſolved to ſend their army again into the field, they (the Governor-General and Council) had no alternative left, but a vigorous proſecution of the war againſt them in conjunction with Ragonaut Row, for the ſupport of whom they had taken every preparatory ſtep that had occurred to them for providing means to carry on the war with vigour and ſucceſs. That they recommended to us to ſuccour the Preſidency of Bombay with two battalions of Seapoys, or more if we could ſpare them; and particularly that we ſhould open a correſpondence with Nizam Ally Khan, Hyder Ally Khan, and Morarirow, and concur with them in uſing our joint efforts with thoſe powers for the re-eſtabliſhment of Ragobah.

218. In conſequence of this information from the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, of their intentions to proſecute the war againſt the miniſterial party of the Maratta State, we ordered two battalions of Seapoys, then ſtationed at Madura and Palamcotah, to hold themſelves in readineſs to march to Anjengo. And as forces from the three Preſidencies might act in conjunction in the expected war with

the Marattas, General Fletcher, on the ſuppoſition that General Clavering could not be ſpared from the avocations of Government at Bengal, begged leave to offer his ſervices for conducting it. This we accordingly communicated to the Governor-General and Council, and at the ſame time informed them, that we were happy, in caſe of extremity, to have it in our power to afford ſuch able aſſiſtance in the general cauſe.

219. The moſt material part however of the directions of the Government-General, that of opening a correſpondence with the country powers before-mentioned for the re-eſtabliſhment of Ragobah, was entruſted to Lord Pigot, as Preſident of the Council.

220. Not doubting in the leaſt but that his Lordſhip would carefully attend to a matter of ſo important a nature, as that of a general war with the Marattas, which, if unſucceſsful, might poſſibly involve your affairs in India in utter ruin, we could not admit ourſelves to doubt but that his Lordſhip had taken the neceſſary meaſures on the occaſion.

221. In this however we were miſtaken; for Lord Pigot, notwithſtanding the then critical ſituation of affairs and his promiſe to write on his way to Tanjore, never addreſſed either of the abovementioned powers, or took any other ſtep whatſoever to bring them to the favourable diſpoſition towards Ragobah, ſo earneſtly wiſhed for by the Governor-General and Council. Fortunately an accommodation ſome time afterwards took place, which rendered any further exertions unneceſſary; ſo that the evil conſequences, which might otherwiſe be apprehended from the very great inattention of Lord Pigot, were not felt, as they moſt probably would, had hoſtilities been again commenced, as had been at firſt reſolved upon.

222. It is unneceſſary to remark to your Honours the criminality of ſuch a conduct on the part of Lord Pigot, or to point out to you where it directly violated the late Act of Parliament, and the inſtructions of the Company to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal.

223. In the ſecond article of your inſtructions to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, your Honours are pleaſed to direct, "That the Correſpondence with the Princes or Country Powers in India "be carried on by the Governor-General only; but that all letters

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" to be ſent by him be firſt approved in Council, and that he lay be-
" fore the Council at their next meeting all letters received by him in
" the courſe of ſuch correſpondence for their information." Theſe inſtructions, as we have before obſerved, we look upon as binding on all your Preſidencies in India equally with Bengal, as far as local circumſtances will admit.

224. How far Lord Pigot has acted conformably either to the letter or ſpirit of theſe inſtructions, we ſhall ſubmit to the conſideration of your Honours. We mean here only to remark, that his Lordſhip has frequently kept from us a knowledge of circumſtances relative to the Country Powers, that were materially connected with your intereſts and the proſperity of the Carnatic. One of which, in particular, was, the total overthrow of Morarirow by Hyder Ally Khan, and of the diſgraceful puniſhment inflicted on Morarirow by Hyder when he took him priſoner. This his Lordſhip did not communicate to us, although he knew that Morarirow was included in the treaty of Hydrabad, concluded in 1768 with Nizam Ally Khan, and that the increaſe of Hyder's power, in conſequence of his ſucceſs, might endanger the peace and tranquillity of theſe parts unleſs timely prevented.

225. We will not treſpaſs longer on your Honours patience on this ſubject; we cannot however avoid requeſting your particular attention to a letter written by the Nabob to Lord Pigot, wherein he complains in very ſtrong terms of his Lordſhip's conduct. This letter was not produced by Lord Pigot 'till we had received a copy of it encloſed to us by Sir Edward Hughes, as mentioned in the firſt part of this addreſs; wherefore we may naturally conclude, that this, as it contained a *heavy charge* againſt himſelf, was one of thoſe letters he deemed it neceſſary to *ſuppreſs*; and that we ſhould have remained ignorant of it's contents is very evident, had it not been conveyed to us through the channel of Sir Edward Hughes.

226. On the 22d of June Lord Pigot laid a draught of a letter before us, which he propoſed we ſhould addreſs to your Honours by a conveyance which offered by the way of France. On our not approving of this letter, (which could be neither ſatisfactory to your Honours, or an explanation of the ſtate of your affairs, and which aimed only at giving a partial impreſſion of the diviſions amongſt us) Lord Pigot thought proper to addreſs it to you from himſelf. We accordingly wrote you a ſhort letter of the ſame date, and forwarded it by the ſame conveyance. Copies of both wait on you Numbers in the Packet.

227. In the 3d paragraph of Lord Pigot's ſeparate letter you will pleaſe to obſerve, that he declares expreſsly, "That the *whole* of his "conduct, during the time he had been at Tanjore, had been ſince "*diſapproved* by a majority of the Council." As your Honours will not find on the records any vote of our diſapprobation ſo marked and deciſive as you would ſuppoſe to have paſſed on Lord Pigot's conduct at Tanjore from his own declaration, you will of courſe be ſurpriſed, that he ſhould ſo readily admit a majority's total diſapprobation of ſo important a duty. Lord Pigot muſt have known, that a majority of the members of Adminiſtration conſtitutes the Government, and that the Government is your Repreſentative;—and further, that a condemnation of his conduct from your Repreſentative was the condemnation of the Company, until they ſhould be pleaſed finally to confirm or repeal it. In ſuch circumſtances, the readineſs with which Lord Pigot in a manner anticipated our total diſapprobation of his conduct at Tanjore, muſt have proceeded from one or two cauſes; either he judged of the reſult of our deliberation on his conduct after the various lights and explanations which daily aroſe from the Nabob's complaints and the claims of others, or, by repreſenting to your Honours our *total* diſapprobation of his conduct at Tanjore, (a chief part of which was the reſtoration of the Rajah) he wiſhed to make us appear to you as ſet in oppoſition to that meaſure. But the injuſtice of ſuch an intention, if it really dictated the declaration, is beſt diſproved by the circumſtances of the caſe. If Lord Pigot favoured the meaſure more zealouſly than we did, we certainly would not have left him the ſole and unreſtrained power to put it in execution.

228. In the courſe of the letter in queſtion, Lord Pigot endeavoured to connect what he was pleaſed to call the diviſions among us—a difference of opinion on the ſubject of a letter from Mr. Paul Benfield of the 29th May, upon which different opinions were formed in conſequence of a clearer conſideration of the ſubject. But previous to the conſideration of that letter, and before Lord Pigot's return from Tanjore, an event happened, which might have involved your affairs in the Carnatic; we mean the ſeizure of the Dobbeer, in the Nabob's country, by a military force acting under the authority of Lord Pigot, who has ſince juſtified the act in the ſtrongeſt terms in one of his public letters to the Nabob, as remarked by the Governor-General and Council of Bengal. On Lord Pigot's communication of this tranſaction to us on his return, ſome of the members of the Board ſaw not the meaſure in the fulneſs of it's critical extent; but your Honours will obſerve from the Nabob's letter how intimately that meaſure was connected with the diſtractions which have ſince prevailed between Lord Pigot and the

Nabob.

Nabob. Your Honours will likewiſe pleaſe to obſerve, that Lord Pigot might, by a more regular management at Tanjore, have ſaved your Government the very diſagreeable difficulties in which we have been involved by the meaſure which gave riſe to Mr. Benfield's application of the 29th May.

229. Having already begged your Honours would be referred to the letter and reſolutions of the Governor-General and Council at Bengal on Lord Pigot's conduct, it may not be unneceſſary here to deſire your particular attention to the 2d paragraph of that letter, wherein they take notice of a draught of a letter preſented to the Nabob by Lord Pigot, and required to be written by him to his Lordſhip, containing an approval of his Lordſhip's conduct, and an aſſurance of forgiveneſs for what had paſſed; and which they ſay afforded them a ſtrong preſumption, that the offers the Rajah of Tanjore ſo liberally had made, in oppoſition to his own intereſt, might have been drawn from him by the ſame indirect kind of influence. This we could not be aſſured of at the time we received their letter; but we have ſince his Lordſhip's arreſt come at the knowledge of a letter to his Dubaſh, which proves to a certainty that the conjectures of the Government-General were not ill founded. This letter, together with copies of ſome others from the ſame perſon, will, without any comment on our part, ſhew you the very diſagreeable ſituation the Rajah of Tanjore has been reduced to, as well as the Nabob, by his Lordſhip's conduct.

230. Another draught of a letter was laid before us by Lord Pigot a few days preceding his arreſt, to be tranſmitted to your Honours by the Grenville; but this we likewiſe diſapproved, as his Lordſhip had proceeded upon the ſame plan of partially repreſenting matters that he had in his ſeparate addreſs before-mentioned.

231. We mean not here to enter into a diſcuſſion of that letter, or a refutation of many of the circumſtances contained in it; but as Lord Pigot has been pleaſed to advance an implied accuſation againſt your Commander in Chief, it is a juſtice we owe Sir Robert Fletcher on this occaſion to declare to you, that his prudence, and the zeal which he has teſtified from the beginning for the execution of your orders, muſt ſufficiently exculpate him from the conduct of which the late Preſident would impeach him upon mere and uncertain report. The very terms in which his Lordſhip ſuppoſes *one of the Nabob's family* to inform againſt Sir Robert, are totally diſſimilar to the terms in which

which a native of this country would convey information. We mean not by this remark to offer an affront to his Lordſhip's veracity, we only wiſh to ſhew you, that the ſpeech which his Lordſhip quotes from the mouth of one of the Nabob's family, is not like the ſtile and manner of a native of this country, ſo that we think it muſt have been compoſed by ſome European for an impoſition on his Lordſhip; a circumſtance that appears the more credible, from what his Lordſhip was pleaſed to think on firſt receiving the information; for he ſays expreſsly, "*That well knowing the artful and intriguing diſpoſition from* "*whence this information was received, your Preſident looked upon it as a* "*bait thrown out to amuſe him to prevent his ſetting out for Tanjore.*" Though it is very certain the packet for the Commiſſioners was opened by Lord Pigot, yet it contained nothing more than duplicates of the ſame diſpatches which were opened by Mr. Dupré in his government. The paragraphs were quoted on your records in Mr. Wynch's government by Mr. Stone in ſupport of the Nabob, who knew long before the laſt diſputes that the Company had been pleaſed to write ſo ſtrongly in favour of his rights.

232. It is worthy of remark, that notwithſtanding Lord Pigot declares this information was given him at the time of his departure to Tanjore the latter end of March laſt, he never thought proper to mention a word of this to Sir Robert Fletcher, or to the Board, until the time when your Commander in Chief was unable to attend Council by a dangerous illneſs, from which it was apprehended he could not recover. We thought it at the ſame time a duty due to his honour to communicate to him, even in the extremity of ſickneſs, a copy of his Lordſhip's accuſation; he received it in his bed, and juſtified himſelf from the charge, adding, "That if he ſhould recover "of his illneſs he ſhould be ready to diſprove it to the world, and to "convince every one, that any influence he had with the Nabob was "employed in ſhewing his Highneſs the neceſſity of complying with "the orders ſent out by the Grenville."

233. Sir Robert Fletcher has entered a minute on the ſubject in conſultation, to which we beg leave to refer your Honours.

234. Mr. Mackay likewiſe begs leave to obſerve, that the remark introduced by Lord Pigot in that letter, of Mr. Mackay's inſignificancy as a member of the Council, he looks upon as the greateſt compliment his Lordſhip could pay him, being convinced that if he was ſo inſignificant his Lordſhip would have thought it quite unneceſſary

to have mentioned his name with any degree of rancour on the records. Mr. Mackay always has, and always will declare himſelf an enemy to tyranny and oppreſſion; and to the oppoſition he gave in Council to Lord Pigot and his aſſociates he is certain he is indebted for the above remark.

235. We cannot here help obſerving to your Honours, that Mr. Dalrymple's violence, and arbitrary doctrines aſſerted at the Board, are among the principal cauſes of the continued ſcenes of altercation and confuſion in which we have long been involved; and we are very ſorry to obſerve, that it has long appeared clear to us, that Lord Pigot has been greatly governed by that gentleman in his publick conduct. Your Honours will perceive, upon the face of our proceedings, that the conduct of Mr. Dalrymple has been, in many inſtances, complained of by ſome of the members of the Board; and Sir Robert Fletcher particularly was driven to the neceſſity of declaring, that he would move to have his conduct taken into conſideration; but the indiſpoſition of Sir Robert, which followed ſoon after, was the cauſe of the enquiry not taking place.

236. As we have wiſhed, in the courſe of this addreſs, to lay before your Honours the whole of our publick conduct towards Lord Pigot, as well as the moſt ſecret motives that influenced us, we cannot here help obſerving, (although the matter has been in ſome degree already diſcuſſed) that conſidering the mixt authority veſted in him, who, as military Governor within the fort and town of Madras, was, in our opinion, ſubject to martial law for offences committed as Governor and Commander in Chief within the fort; and alſo conſidering Lord Pigot as the Preſident of the Council, whoſe offences are to be judged of by acts of Parliament, and by the inſtructions and regulations of the Eaſt-India Company, or by the known laws of England; upon all theſe accounts, we ſay, it became impoſſible for us to bring any one ſpecific charge of offence againſt his Lordſhip, as in common caſes is, and ought ever to be known to a perſon in his ſituation as ſoon after his confinement as poſſible. We have given very minutely all the circumſtances that preceded the extraordinary exertion of power which we have been under the neceſſity of making in our own defence, and that of the conſtitution, and for the peace of this Settlement and of the Carnatic. Beſides this State neceſſity, we think ourſelves juſtified by the clear definition of government, according to the practice of every Preſidency in

India, according to the expreſs words in the body of the commiſſion of government, where we obſerve, that the power over the officers and ſoldiers, in the fortreſs and city, is ſaid to be in the Governor and Council, or in the majority of the ſaid Council, according to every rational idea of what your wiſdom could ſuggeſt; where there may be any doubt as to the powers of the Preſident in himſelf, ſeparate from the Council, which we cannot bring ourſelves to believe to be ſuch, as that in our ſituation, ſo diſtant from immediate redreſs from you, our ſuperiors, Lord Pigot, or any Preſident, charged with crimes and offences of the nature contained in the minutes of our conſultations and letter, ſhould have it in his power to remain unalterably fixt in the chair, for years perhaps, diſtreſſing and impeding Government; maſter of the correſpondence with the country powers, refuſing to join his name with the majority, and aſſerting that no queſtion could be put, nor reſolution of the Board carried into execution, without his concurrence; irritating the Prince of the country, the ally of the Crown of Great Britain, and the friend of the Company; fomenting a ſchiſm in government, and party violence in the Settlement, which might in its conſequences encourage the neighbouring powers to take the advantage of ſuch a ſituation; we cannot, we ſay, bring ourſelves to imagine, that any ſuch independent power can reſide in the Preſident of your Council; on the contrary, that his name, and every authority veſted in him (whatever may be his opinion given by vote in Council) muſt, according to the conſtitution and uſage of the ſervice, be annexed to every act of government, that has the ſanction of a majority of your Council. And we cannot help here obſerving, that in the body of his military commiſſion, as Governor of this fort, and indeed by the expreſs terms of your inſtructions, defining the ſeparate military powers of the Governor and the Commander in Chief, Lord Pigot, as Governor of the fort, in every act of authority, was ſubject to the orders of the Governor and Council, which undoubtedly means the majority of the Council. Were it neceſſary to bring arguments from analogy, we need only refer you to the act of Parliament already mentioned, and to the mode of conducting buſineſs in the deliberations of the Government-General at Bengal; where it is well known, that almoſt ever ſince its eſtabliſhment, the government has been exerciſed by the majority, and the Preſident or Governor-General has ſeen it his duty to ſubmit and ſign the reſolutions he even diſſented to.

237. In reſpect to detaining Lord Pigot ſo long in arreſt, we muſt again urge to you, not to judge of us upon any ſeparate point, but to conſider the whole of our conduct, and the particular circumſtances, pub-

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lick and private, applicable to Lord Pigot, arising from the authority he might dare to assume as the supposed Governor, and from the means which his large fortune might enable him to use, in order to gain the purposes suggested by a natural violence and heat of temper, if he were at liberty, as a servant of the Company, merely suspended; weighing likewise in our own minds the state of distress and anxiety that this would occasion to the Nabob and to his family, we determined in all events to detain him under arrest, as an enemy to the State and to the Constitution of the Company, for reasons of State, and in order to preserve the peace of the Carnatic, which it is our duty in the first place to look to. We have at the same time taken particular care that his arrest shall be attended with as few inconveniences as the public trust in us will admit of. This appears from the daily reports from the Mount. Lord Pigot has permission to walk abroad when he is so inclined, and to dine with his son-in-law Mr. Monckton, at Mr. Monckton's house, whenever he thinks proper; besides, his most intimate friend, Mr. Dalrymple, has been permitted to assist him in his dispatches to England, and every paper, which he has as yet desired from the records for his own justification, has been granted him; and every one in the Settlement who chuses has daily access to him.

238. And thus having discussed, with as much candour as sincerity, the subject of our late divisions, we shall now draw this long address to a conclusion, relying on the justice of our cause with the utmost security as to the judgment you may pass, both as to our conduct and that of Lord Pigot's respectively. It is however necessary to beg your attention to the letters we shall address you from the Civil and Revenue Departments, wherein your Honours will find much matter on the same subject; and such, if it is essential, you should take into your most serious consideration.

239. Since writing the foregoing, we have received a letter from Mr. Paul Benfield, from Tanjore, to the following effect: That having never given cause to Lord Pigot to draw his resentment on him, he was at a loss to find out the reason why his Lordship should be induced to take measures against him so injurious to his credit and fortune, as he had already represented to the Board. That he had however since perceived, that his Lordship's views in so doing were interested, and that it was his own good, not that of the Company, he pursued in those measures during his late administration. That as a servant to the Company, and wishing to bring to light the true motives of

Lord Pigot's publick conduct, as well as in juſtice to himſelf, he took occaſion to inform us, that he had arrived at the knowledge of certain tranſactions of Lord Pigot, ſuch as his obtaining very large ſums of money, jewels and plate to a very great amount, from Indian Princes, contrary to covenants and the repeated orders of the Company, and which conſtituted him guilty of an infringement of the late act of Parliament.—That as he was reſolved to take every legal method, by proſecution or otherwiſe here and in England, to prove beyond a doubt ſuch delinquency and breach of public truſt in his Lordſhip; and as he ſhould have occaſion to apply to us to obtain certain evidences reſiding within the bounds of Tanjore, or in places belonging to his Highneſs the Nabob of the Carnatic, that he truſted he ſhould meet with our aſſiſtance and ſupport.—That he thought it his duty not only to make thoſe repreſentations to us, but that they might be known to Lord Pigot himſelf, againſt whom he meant to commence proſecutions before courts competent in ſuch caſes.

240. In anſwer to this letter from Mr. Benfield we informed him, that we did not underſtand what he meant by the words *obtaining evidence.* —That the only way we could act, was to recommend to the Princes in alliance with the Company to permit ſuch of their ſubjects to come to this place, as might be neceſſary to give evidence in any ſuits he might think proper to prefer againſt Lord Pigot, without our interfering in any other reſpect either by our authority or influence.—That we ſhould tranſmit a copy of his letter, with our anſwer, to Major Horne, in order that he might communicate the ſame to Lord Pigot.

241. On this ſubject we ſhall for the preſent remain ſilent; and having, in every circumſtance relative to Lord Pigot treated him with the utmoſt candour, we will not even venture at hazarding an opinion until the facts are more fully brought to view.

We are, Honourable,

Your faithful humble ſervants,

Fort St. George,
24th September, 1776.

Geo. Stratton
Henry Brooke
Robt. Fletcher
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Geo. Mackay.

Number 15.

Number 15.

Liſt of a Packet received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Liſt of the Packet from the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George, in their Military Department, to the Honourable the Court of Directors, via Suez.

Number.

1.	General letter,	dated 10th October, 1776.
2.	Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore	25th Sept. 1776.
3.	Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore	26th Sept. 1776.
4.	Letter from the Nabob	3d October, 1776.
5.	Letter from the Nabob	5th October, 1776.
6.	General letter from Bengal	10th Sept. 1776.
7.	Letter from Sir Edward Hughes	8th October, 1776.
8.	Letter from Lord Pigot to Sir Edward Hughes	7th October, 1776.
9.	Letter to Sir Edward Hughes	9th October, 1776.
10.	Letter from Sir Edward Hughes	8th October, 1776.
11.	Minute of Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan.	
12.	Minute of the Preſident, Meſſrs. Brooke, Palmer, and Mackay.	
13.	Minute of conſultation	29th Auguſt, 1776.
14.	Circular letter from the Governor-General and Council to the Subordinacies.	
15.	Liſt of the Packet.	

Dated in Fort St. George,
this 10th October, 1776.

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 1.

St. George General Letter, dated 10th October, 1776.

[illegible] over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies.

Honourable,

Par. 1. Since cloſing our general diſpatches to your Honours of the 24th and 26th ultimo, we have received two letters from the Rajah of Tanjore, copies of which now wait on you encloſed.

2. On reference to our proceedings of conſultation in the civil department 28th June, your Honours will be pleaſed to obſerve, that among the many reaſons urged by Lord Pigot for the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore, the particular deſire of the Rajah is mentioned as a principal one, who, he informed us, was ſo "Sincerely deſirous of ſtrengthening his connexion with the Com- "pany by every means in his power, that it would be agreeable to him "if the Company would ſend proper perſons to attempt an inveſtment "in his country, where they might be ſure of meeting with every ſup- "port and aſſiſtance that could be received from his authority." How far this aſſertion of Lord Pigot accords with matter of fact your Honours will be able to judge from the papers now before you. The Rajah's diſlike to the appointment of either a Chief and Council or Reſident is evident from his letters, wherein you will be pleaſed to obſerve he expreſſes an anxious deſire to have the free and uncontrolled government of his country in his own hands. We will not enter into a diſcuſſion of the reaſons which might have induced Lord Pigot to recommend

and the appointment of a Chiefſhip or Reſidency at Tanjore, or of the motives which afterwards led him to an obſtinate perſeverance in ſupport of that meaſure; it will be ſufficient to remark, that it clearly appears to us from the Rajah's letters to have been propoſed without his concurrence.

3. The reaſons we urged againſt this favourite project of Lord Pigot, as we could not view it otherwiſe than an interference with the Rajah's government, will, we are convinced, meet with the entire approbation of your Honours. They were in every reſpect conformable to your commands of the 12th April, 1775, per Grenville, and, as it has ſince appeared, to the ſentiments of the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, who, on taking the ſubject into conſideration, have thought proper expreſsly to declare, "That they ſhould conſider any authority given "to interfere in the affairs of that government as a breach of your "poſitive orders, and that an appointment, ſuch as propoſed by Lord "Pigot, was too liable to ſuggeſt to the neighbouring powers the "apprehenſion, that the act for reſtoring the Rajah of Tanjore to the "poſſeſſion of his dominions, was only a pretence for veſting the ſove-"reignty and government of that country in the Company under the "name of the Rajah.

4. We have likewiſe received a letter from the Nabob, informing us, that Lord Pigot, in a publick letter of the 25th June, adviſed him of the reſolution of the Board, "That he was entitled to the Government-ſhare of the laſt year's crop in the Tanjore country, but that his Lordſhip had privately ſent him an Engliſh draught of a letter ſome days after that reſolution had paſſed, (which we obſerve to your Honours was without the knowledge of the Board, and in oppoſition to a reſolution of a great majority of the Board) written in his own hand, which he deſired his Highneſs would addreſs to him, containing a propoſal to let his claim to the Government-ſhare of the laſt year's crop in the Tanjore country remain as it was until your pleaſure ſhould be known. A copy of this is a number in the packet, and needs no other comment

than what will occur on reading the paragraph of the letter from the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, which relates to a ſimilar one delivered by Lord Pigot to the Nabob, and of which a copy is alſo a number in the packet.

5. After having taken up perhaps too much of your time with reſpect to the nature of the claims on the Tanjore country whilſt the Nabob was maſter of it, we ſhall only add, that when we gave our opinion on this buſineſs, we deſired Lord Pigot would acquaint the Rajah, "That "we recommended to him to ſee juſtice done, leaving the manner "and time to himſelf;" but as we do not think it likely the Rajah will give the Nabob any ſatisfaction in this matter without your interference, we ſhall wait your orders on this ſubject.

6. Were there not already a ſufficient number of inſtances ſtated to your Honours of the arbitrary and illegal conduct of Lord Pigot, theſe would be of themſelves enough to ſhew you the very ſerious difficulties in which your affairs would thereby have been involved.

7. Since writing the aforegoing, we have received a letter from the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, dated the 10th of laſt month, together with paragraph of your commands to them by the Lioneſs, both of which confirm, in the ampleſt manner, the propriety of the line we have been compelled to take as a majority of the Council. A copy of their letter waits on your Honours encloſed.

8. A letter has been addreſſed to Lord Pigot by the Governor-General and Council at Bengal to the ſame effect as that we have received, and likewiſe one to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, requeſting his aid and aſſiſtance, if neceſſary, in uniting with them in the ſupport of our authority and government.

9. Sir Robert Fletcher a few days ago made application to us for leave to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope in the Greenwich for the recovery

recovery of his health, which has for ſome time paſt been in a very declining ſtate. Although we were much concerned at the cauſe of this requeſt, which was likely to produce the temporary abſence of Sir Robert Fletcher, from whoſe zeal and abilities the Company have reaped great ſervice, yet the neceſſity appeared ſo urgent from the Surgeon's Certificate, that we could not heſitate a moment in giving him our permiſſion. As ſoon as Lord Pigot was informed of this ſtep, he addreſſed a letter to Sir Edward Hughes, acquainting him, that Sir Robert Fletcher had been ordered in arreſt the 23d of Auguſt by himſelf and the Members of Council, and that as he had not been legally releaſed, his Lordſhip deſired him to inform us, that he ſhould hold us reſponſible for all the conſequences that might enſue from our permitting him to remove out of the juriſdiction of the military authority eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament. Apprehenſive however that this repreſentation would not be ſufficient to delay Sir Robert's departure for the Cape, his Lordſhip at the ſame time filed a bill of complaint againſt him in the Mayor's Court for falſe impriſonment, laid his damages at 200,000 l. and prayed the Court to iſſue a writ of Ne exeat Regnum.

10. Although we were before well acquainted with Lord Pigot's diſpoſition, we did not conceive him ſo void of humanity as he has ſhewn himſelf in this inſtance. The means which his Lordſhip has taken to prevent Sir Robert Fletcher from going to the Cape are not confined to the ſole cauſe of obtaining juſtice; they appear evidently to be founded on perſonal pique and reſentment, and to gratify theſe he is at no pains to conceal the ſpirit by which he is actuated. His Lordſhip, at the head of a minority of the Members of Government, having violently uſurped the powers of the whole Board, had the cruelty to order Sir Robert Fletcher in arreſt on the 23d Auguſt, under all the uſual formalities, for a ſuppoſed capital crime, while he was lying upon his bed in the moſt dangerous ſtate of health; ſtill perſevering in the ſame temper towards Sir Robert, he is not content with filing a ſuit againſt him for exceſſive damages, but he makes

this illegal arreſt a pretence for keeping him in the Settlement at a time when he is told by his phyſicians, that a voyage to the Cape is neceſſary for his recovery.

11. Sir Robert Fletcher is now better than when he applied to us for leave to go to the Cape, and if he continues to mend, he intends to ſtay with us, and not to go thither.

12. We ſhall add no further comment upon Lord Pigot's conduct than to obſerve, that we daily, even hourly, ſee reaſons ſufficient to convince us of the propriety of having taken from him that uſurped power, which he had the will to employ in ſacrificing every thing to his perſonal reſentment. We beg leave to encloſe copies of Sir Edward Hughes's letter on this occaſion to us, and our anſwer; alſo copy of the letter from Lord Pigot to Sir Edward Hughes. Your Honours will no doubt remark the peculiar impropriety of Lord Pigot's writing, and of Sir Edward Hughes's forwarding to us, a letter diſavowing our authority, after they had both received information from the Governor-General and Council approving the meaſures we had taken, and expreſſing their firm reſolution to ſupport the authority of our Government.

13. Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan having delivered in a joint minute, propoſing that more members be added to the Council, it was reſolved by a majority in the negative. We encloſe copy of their minute, and of the minute delivered in by the Preſident, and ſubſcribed to by the other members of the majority; alſo copy of the minute paſſed the 29th Auguſt, relative to the vacancies in the Committee of Circuit and thoſe of the Council.

14. The Governor-General and Council at Bengal have thought it neceſſary to write a letter upon *the act of arreſting* Lord Pigot to all

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our northern Settlements, a copy of which we think it material to tranſmit to your Honours a number in the packet.

Honourable,

Fort St. George,
October the 10th, 1776.

Your faithful humble ſervants,

Geo. Stratton
Henry Brooke
Rob. Fletcher
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

Number 2.

Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, dated 25th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Tranſlation of a Maratta Letter from Tuljaujee Maharajah to the Honourable George Stratton, Eſquire, Preſident and Governor, &c. Council at Fort St. George, dated the 25th September, 1776.

ON the 16th of this month I received your favour dated the 7th inſtant, and I was greatly rejoiced at it; wherein you wrote me, that ſome time ago, in a letter that was written by Lord Pigot, was mentioned the determination of the Governor and Council that was made on account of Mr. Benfield's affairs, that I muſt act according to juſtice, and that if I peruſed the letter in which the opinion of the Governor and Council was given, I ſhould know that I am obliged to make the payments.

C.

On the ſubject of Mr. Benfield's affairs Lord Pigot did not write me any letter I never knew any thing concerning it; beſides I do not underſtand the determination of the Board; therefore if you will be pleaſed to ſend me copies of Lord Pigot's letter, and the determination of the Board, I will examine into the affairs and tranſact it according to juſtice: whatever is agreeable to you will be perfectly ſo to me. You are ſenſible of all things.

What can I ſay more?

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 3.

Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, dated 26th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Tranſlation of a Maratta Letter from Tuljaujee, Maharah of Tanjore, to the the Honourable George Stratton, Eſquire, Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George, dated 26th September, 1776.

I WRITE particularly in anſwer to your letter dated 7th September, wherein you mentioned, that "I would on all occaſions open my mind to you, and without the leaſt reſerve expreſs what I wiſh, as it is your earneſt deſire, as well as that of the Council, to make me and my people happy and contented; and that if I have any grievance, to inform you;" when I have ſuch friends as you and the Council to ſupport me and my credit, to whom ſhould I otherwiſe apply?

You wrote me, that you and the Council were unwilling to appoint a Chief and Council or Reſident here; what occaſion was there for ſuch an appointment, and what buſineſs had they to do here? Some time ago I had the misfortune to diſagree with the Nabob, and by that my Government affairs, with reſpect to the repair of the Annecut, &c. were hindered by ſome of my enemies. As I am under

the protection of the Honourable Company, it is neceſſary that they ſhould protect me from the perplexities of my enemies. I had applied to Lord Pigot in order to aſſiſt me in my Government affairs, upon that I do not know what has paſſed; now my deſire is, that your Honour, &c. ſhould be careful that there ſhould not be any diſturbance in my Government, and that I may have full power to govern the country freely, without having any troubles of my enemies; the heavineſs of tranſacting according to my requeſt is upon you and the Council, you know it perfectly well.

You mentioned in your letter, that it had been repreſented to you that my mind was diſturbed with fears and alarms; there was no cauſe for any ſuch thing; beſides, how can I be under fears at any time, when the Honourable Company (who had ſaved me from all fears) are in power to aſſiſt me and my generations? Beſides, what reaſon have I to be concerned, when I am certain that there will not happen any diſturbance? for what they have done muſt remain as long as the ſun and moon endure, and that I am eaſy by their ſhewing me favour and friendſhip. How much do I commend them for their humanity and favour, in reſtoring me to my country, and eſtabliſhing me in it. You will be pleaſed to inform the Honourable Company of my firm attachment to them, ſo that my Government may be ſettled for ever, and you will acquaint me of their goodneſs that I may be happy.

You wrote me concerning the Vackeels and Dubaſh; I did not take them into my ſervice by the recommendation of any perſon, but myſelf took them into the buſineſs; but having reaſon to form ſuſpicions of them, I have diſmiſſed Rudraja Pundut, Vackeel, and Oppoo, Dubaſh. Concerning the Vackeel's duty, my Vackeel, the ſon of Shambaujee Pundut, is waiting upon you, therefore I have no buſineſs to take any Dubaſh in that duty.

You will be pleaſed to write letters to me in Marattas, as is uſual, which will be eaſy for me.

You mentioned in your letter that nobody had any authority from you to interfere in my buſineſs, and for the ſame account you gave ſtrict orders to your Dubaſh; and alſo you aſſured me of your good intentions, and that it is your determined reſolution to ſupport me in my government to the utmoſt of your power. You will be pleaſed to protect me, that I may carry on the government affairs eaſily without any one giving me trouble.

As you are wiſhing for my happineſs and long life, I can have no concern whatever, and am quite eaſy, ſince I am to be ſupported by the Honourable Company; and as I have theſe aſſurances from you I am eaſy, without taking any conſideration into my head. Be pleaſed to continue to protect me in all my affairs. You are ſenſible of all things.

What can I ſay more?

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 4.

Letter from the Nabob, with Draughts of Letters given him by Lord Pigot.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Tranſlation of a Letter from the Nabob to Governor Stratton, dated and received 3d October, 1776.

I HAVE received your letter of the 14th September. The ſatisfaction you expreſs on the declaration I make, in being ready to unite in whatever may be for the benefit and advantage of the Carnatic, and the intereſts of the Company, is a mark of the ſincerity of your friendſhip

friendſhip and makes me very happy. I ſhall always be obliged to the Company, and am and will be united with them whether in good or bad times; and ſhall always conſider their advantages and intereſts as one and the ſame with my own. You write, "That I may be aſſured it "will always be your greateſt pleaſure to pay attention to my honour "and dignity, and you hope that in future I ſhall have no occaſion to "complain of the conduct of the Company's ſervants." I am much obliged to you for this declaration; as my friendſhip with the Company and Engliſh Nation has ſubſiſted thro' a length of years, both in bad and good times, in full force, has even from the beginning been the ſame, has been found true on the touchſtone of trial, and will in future, with the bleſſing of God, continue the ſame in me and my children, I entertain hopes on this ground of receiving from the Company's agents ſuch attentions as your Letter expreſſes; but further I have always, from the commencement of my friendſhip with the Company and the Engliſh Nation, flattered myſelf with hopes of increaſe of honours and the preſervation of my own rights. I had no perſonal diſlike to Lord Pigot, my diſlike was to his conduct, in which it appeared he was bent to leſſen my honour, to diſgrace me, and to deſtroy my rights, for which I look for juſtice to my good friends. I ſend you, agreeably to your deſire, copies of my letters of the 16th July and 17th Auguſt, which Lord Pigot did not give to the Council.

Sir, among other particulars of Lord Pigot's conduct, one was, that from the beginning he did not approve of my writing to the Governor and Council, and told me not to write without ſhewing him the draughts of my letters; and if I wrote, and he approved of my letters, he ſhewed them to the Council, but if he diſapproved of them, he did not deliver them in to the Board; perhaps then he may not have delivered in many of my letters that were diſagreeable to himſelf. His Lordſhip was exceedingly diſpleaſed with my letter of the 12th of February laſt, ſetting forth to the Company the real ſtate of matters here

with

with reſpect to the affairs of Tanjore, and told me not to write in ſuch terms; but to write a ſhort letter, declaring, "That in compliance with "Lord Pigot's repreſentation I had conſented, and that I ſhould at- "tend to what he might ſay;" but I repreſented all the circumſtances of that affair to the Company. For theſe reaſons, being aware of Lord Pigot's diſpoſition, I was under apprehenſions, and therefore wrote the circumſtance of ſetting a guard of Europeans over me in my letter to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, that through his means it might be communicated to the Council. Lord Pigot, in a publick letter of the 25th of June, wrote of his intentions of giving me the grain of the Tanjore country, but privately ſent an Engliſh draught of a letter written in his own hand, that I might write one conformably to it; and, after coming from Tanjore, delivered me the draught of a letter in his own hand-writing to be addreſſed to himſelf. I have ſent you the copies of them, and they will clearly ſhew you his Lordſhip's diſpoſition. I have received the copy you ſent me of the reſolves of the Governor-General and Council of Bengal; they are a clear proof of the juſtice, virtue, and wiſdom of thoſe Gentlemen; their wiſe and judicious conduct has been the means of making me very happy, and is deſerving of the higheſt applauſe. I am much obliged to you for your goodneſs in ſending me a copy of their reſolutions.

What can I ſay more?

A true Copy.

Copies of Draughts of Letters given by Lord Pigot to the Nabob, and alluded to in his Highneſs's Letter, 3d October, 1776.

I AM very happy at my friend's return. I forgive you for every thing you have done. The man who is faithful to his maſter will ever be ſo to his friend. You have finiſhed the Company's buſineſs, I hope you will not forget mine. I will lay before you the whole ſtate of my affairs,

and I desire your assistance to settle them to the satisfaction of the Company, that I may be happy.

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

I have received your letter of the 23d July. Being happy upon every occasion to convince you that I sincerely wish to be guided by the judgment of the Company, I will let my claim to the Government-share of the last year's crop of the Tanjore country remain as it is until their pleasure be known.

I will never give up my pretensions, and what I think my right to the Tanjore country in general; but the same inclination which leads me to testify my desire of conforming to the Company's pleasure, prompts me to tell you, that you may dispose of Hanamantagoody and Arnee in the manner you may think most conformably to the wishes of the Company, relying upon their justice.

With respect to the Tripassore, &c. districts, I wish to rent them upon the Company's terms. The rent I pay is large, but I will in a few days let you know what I think is their real value.

What can I say more?

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 5.

Letter from the Nabob, dated 5th October, 1776, with a Paper given by Lord Pigot to his Highness; and Copy of a Letter from him to Lord Pigot.

Received over-land by Lieutenant Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

THE President acquaints the Board, that the Nabob has delivered to him a paper containing the amount of the orders he has given upon the

Tanjore country. That the Nabob has likewiſe given him an order directed to all his Amildars, &c. commanding them to account with ſuch perſons as he, the Preſident, may name, for all the ſums collected in the Tanjore country ſince the 9th inſtant; and directing the ſaid Amildars, &c. to relinquiſh all manner of authority, ſhould they be required by him ſo to do.

The Preſident thinks therefore the Company's orders may now be carried into effect, and that the Rajah ſhould be placed in the full poſſeſſion and management of the country by a public order to all the Amildars, &c.

The ſafety of Tanjore, and the ſecurity of the Rajah and his family, appearing to make it neceſſary that an Engliſh garriſon ſhould not only be in the fort, but the country alſo be protected by the Company's troops; the Preſident recommends, that the Rajah be requeſted to permit the ſame, and to allot for this purpoſe a ſum not exceeding the amount of what he formerly paid to his own troops.

The ſafety of the Carnatic depends upon a well-diſciplined force, regularly paid, being kept up; the particular ſafety and quiet of every individual ſeems to require that no other force ſhould be permitted to be kept up; and theſe conſiderations induce the Board to wiſh that the Rajah would join them in their endeavours to place the country in this ſituation.

In order to induce the Nabob to aſſent hereto, the Rajah may be deſired to allow the amount of the ſeveral orders the Nabob has given upon the Tanjore country to be diſcharged out of the revenues thereof.

The proviſion thus made towards the ſupport of the army by the Rajah of Tanjore, will render it unneceſſary for the Nabob in time of peace

peace to be at a greater expenſe than the ſum the Company now charge him with; and ſuch of his regiments of horſe as have been long in his ſervice, and he is deſirous of having continued in pay, may be kept up without putting him to that expenſe.

The Preſident adds, that having explained this to the Nabob, his Highneſs in teſtimony of his ſincere friendſhip to the Company readily aſſents thereto.

A true Copy.

Tranſlation of a Letter from his Highneſs the Nabob to Governor Stratton.

IN anſwer to your favour of the 4th September, in which you requeſted copies of the two letters I wrote to the Governor and Council, and which Lord Pigot had kept himſelf, I wrote to you a letter the 3d October, 1776, from which you will know the cauſe of Lord Pigot's kindneſs to me, in not laying my letter which he did not approve of before the Board. I now write for your information.

On the 26th February, 1776, in the morning, Lord Pigot delivered a paper, written by himſelf, in Engliſh, to Mr. Chambers, the Company's Moonſhy and Perſian Tranſlator. Omdat ul Omrah and Ameer ul Omrah, my two ſons, whom I deſired to go and viſit Lord Pigot at the Company's gardens, ſent it to me with this meſſage; "That "his Lordſhip would lay that paper before the Board that day, and "whatever that paper contained, whether I conſented to it or not, "he would do it by force." This very much aſtoniſhed me, and I immediately told Mr. Chambers and my two ſons, that I had never ſaid any ſuch things to Lord Pigot; and how could he write in this manner in my name? Afterwards Mr. Chambers took a copy of Lord Pigot's paper, and carried it to his Lordſhip.

As

As Lord Pigot had taken the liberty of writing ſuch things without my knowledge, I did not know what falſities he might tell of me in Council; for this reaſon, in anſwer to that paper, I wrote a publick letter to the Governor and Council, dated 27th February, 1776. As I ſuſpect that Lord Pigot has never laid before the Board either his own paper or my letter, I have ſent you encloſed copies of both in Engliſh; I have alſo ſent a copy of my own letter in Perſian, to explain this to you. From this buſineſs you will underſtand all his actions.

Dated, 21ſt Shaubaun, 1190 Hegira.
5th October, 1776.

A true Copy.

Tranſlation of a Letter from his Highneſs the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 7th Mohurrum, 1190 Hegira, or 27th February, 1776.

IN anſwer to your Lordſhip's requeſt of the 23d February, 1776, or 3d Mohurrum, 1190 Hegira, to be informed what orders I had given on the Tanjore Country, and what perſon I wiſhed to be ſent on a deputation thither, I ſent you by my two ſons a paper, containing my opinion, on the 26th February; upon this your Lordſhip ſent me by Mr. Chambers a paper written in your own hand for my peruſal. The contents of that paper ſurprized me much. From the time in which a garriſon of my friends has been put in Tanjore, I have repeatedly explained to your Lordſhip, as in my letter of the 22d January, my ſentiments relative to my rights, and the difficulties that would ariſe from interfering with the buſineſs of the country.

I now write your Lordſhip, that I did not explain to you my ſentiments in the manner you have been pleaſed to write in the paper ſent by Mr. Chambers. I beg your Lordſhip may write me what you propoſe to ſay on this ſubject; I will in return write your Lordſhip my ſentiments plainly. I always regard my good

friends the Company as the protectors of my honour, my reputation, and my family.

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 6.

General Letter from Bengal, dated 10th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

The Honourable George Stratton, Eſquire, Preſident, &c. and Council at Fort St. George.

Gentlemen,

Par. 1. WE have received your letter of the 23d Auguſt, by the Shrewſbury, and we have alſo received a letter from the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, dated 29th Auguſt, by the Triton.

2. Having maturely conſidered the ſubject of theſe letters, we proceed immediately to acquaint you with our determination upon them.

3. The rights and powers of the Governor and Council at Fort St. George, being, by the original conſtitution, veſted in the majority of the members who compoſe that body, and the intemperate conduct of Lord Pigot, your late Preſident, in forcibly excluding two of your members from their ſeats at the Board, having been the cauſe of the unhappy ſeparation of the majority of your Board from the minority; in this alarming and dangerous ſituation of your Government, we think it incumbent on us to declare, that we acknowledge the title and authority which we underſtand you have been thus compelled to aſſume; in conſequence whereof we have reſolved to ſupport you in the Government, by all the means which you may require from us, and we have it in our power to grant, in virtue of our general inſtructions, to afford our aid and protection to all the Preſidencies of the Company in India.

4. Although you have not yet notified to us that you have aſſumed the adminiſtration of the Preſidency of Fort St. George, nor informed us of all the circumſtances which produced that event, yet we are too well appriſed of the ſeries of tranſactions, which led to it, to entertain a doubt with reſpect to the conduct we ought to purſue on this occaſion; and the criſis is too urgent and alarming to admit of our waiting to enter into a more minute inveſtigation of all the facts and proceedings which have reduced the Government of Fort St. George to its preſent ſituation, and *us* to the neceſſity of deciding upon it; it is ſufficient for us to know, that in ſupporting that part of a divided adminiſtration, which is formed by a majority of its members, we ſupport the legal and conſtitutional Government.

5. We judge it proper however to mention, that we ſhould have been very glad to offer our mediation to conciliate paſt differences, inſtead of purſuing the more deciſive line which we have adopted, had we conceived any hopes of ſucceſs; but we feared that your differences had gone too far to admit of it, and that a want of ſucceſs in promoting that deſirable end might have been attended with conſequences more fatal than any which can reſult from our preſent decided reſolution

6. After ſo recent an example of the diſpoſition of your late Preſident, as appears in his conduct towards the Nabob, and while our deciſion on the appeal, which was made to us by the Nabob on that occaſion, was yet depending, we could not but be greatly alarmed for the peace of the Carnatic, when we heard of the unexampled means by which Lord Pigot had endeavoured to uſurp the powers of your Government, by attempting to procure a majority of the Council by violence in order to ſanctify his meaſures.—Thus deprived of the aid on which we had depended from the integrity of a large majority of the members of your late Council, who had ſtedfaſtly oppoſed the hoſtile meaſures adopted by his Lordſhip againſt the Nabob, what hope could we any longer entertain that our orders on theſe points, which were contained in our letter

letter of the 7th Auguſt, would not be openly diſobeyed or covertly eluded, when the execution of them was thus left to the diſcretion of that power which they were meant to control? Notwithſtanding what has followed, we are not yet free from our apprehenſions; we therefore judge it neceſſary to give you this notice, that our final reſolution on the charges preferred againſt your late Preſident only remains ſuſpended, and that if any change ſhall have taken place, ſince the date of your laſt advices, which ſhall make it neceſſary for us to recur to the opinions which we have already delivered upon them, we ſhall not fail to proceed to the laſt extremities warranted by the controlling powers veſted in us by the late regulating act of Parliament for the preſervation of the national faith, and of the Company's engagements with their ally the Nabob of the Carnatic.

7. Senſibly concerned as we are for the diſorders which have unhappily taken place in the Government of Fort St. George, we muſt ſtill continue to feel the moſt painful apprehenſions of the conſequences which may enſue from ſuch a convulſion. We earneſtly deſire therefore that you will furniſh us with conſtant advice of every ſubſequent tranſaction, which may have any relation to this unfortunate affair, and in which the general intereſts of the Company may be eventually concerned, to enable us at all times to be prepared to contribute our aid by any means that may be neceſſary to conduce to the ſafety of your Settlement.

8. To remove every poſſibility of a doubt that the whole power of your Board reſts in a majority of its members, we tranſmit you an extract of a General Letter which we have lately received from the Honourable Court of Directors by the Lioneſs, wherein you will find their ſentiments very clearly expreſſed.

9. We have thought it proper to acquaint Sir Edward Hughes with the reſolutions we have formed, under the preſent circumſtances, with

reſpect to your Preſidency, and to requeſt that he will unite with us in ſupport of your authority and government.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

(Signed)
Warren Haſtings,
John Clavering,

Fort William,
10th September, 1776.

Richd. Barwell,
P. Francis.

A true Copy, R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Number 7.

Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, dated 8th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To George Stratton, Eſquire, Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Sir and Gentlemen,

HAVING received a letter from Lord Pigot, I think it neceſſary to ſend you the encloſed copy of the ſame, that you may act therein as to you may appear moſt proper.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Saliſbury, in Madras Road,
8th October, 1776.

EDWD HUGHES.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Number

Number 8.

Lord Pigot's Letter to Sir Edward Hughes, dated 7th October, 1776. Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Sir Edward Hughes, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's Ships in India.

SIR,

AS I underſtand that Sir Robert Fletcher hath applied to Meſſieurs George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan and George Mackay, for permiſſion to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope on the ſhip Greenwich now under diſpatch; and being apprehenſive, in caſe ſuch permiſſion ſhould be granted him, that he may thereby elude being brought to juſtice for the crimes for which he was ordered in arreſt the 23d of Auguſt laſt by myſelf and the Members of Council, and from which arreſt he has not been legally releaſed; I deſire you will acquaint the ſaid George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan and George Mackay, that I ſhall deem them reſponſible for all the conſequences that may enſue from their permitting him, Sir Robert Fletcher, to remove out of the juriſdiction of the military authority eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament for the better government of the Company's troops in the Eaſt Indies, until the pleaſure of the Court of Directors be known, as in the preſent ſituation of myſelf and other legal Repreſentatives of the Company on this Coaſt, it is not in our power to bring him to his trial.

I have the honour to be,
With the greateſt eſteem,
Sir, your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

St. Thomas's Mount,
7th Sept. 1776. (Signed) PIGOT.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Number 9.

Letter to Sir Edward Hughes, dated 9th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Sir Edward Hughes, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majeſt Ships in India.

SIR,

WE have had the honour to receive your letter of the 8th inſtant, and cannot but expreſs our concern that after having peruſed the letter from the Governor-General and Council, of which we ſent you a copy, expreſſing their approbation of the late meaſures, and encloſing copy of orders from the Company by the Lioneſs, and after the letter, you inform us, you alſo have received, you ſhould tranſmit to us a copy of the one from Lord Pigot diſavowing our authority. We hope, Sir, you will be pleaſed to take this ſubject into your conſideration, and we doubt not but you will ſee the impropriety of our receiving ſuch letters through you.

We have the honour to be with eſteem,

Sir, your moſt obedient

And moſt humble ſervants,

(Signed) Geo. Stratton
Henry Brooke
Rob[t] Fletcher
Arch[l]. Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

Fort St. George,
9th October, 1776.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Number 10.

Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, dated 8th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Saliſbury, in Madras Road, the 8th Day of September, 1776.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I HAVE received your letter of yeſterday's date with the encloſures, and in anſwer thereto acquaint you, that the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, in their letter to me, expreſs themſelves in the following words:

——"Requeſting that you will unite with us in affording your "aſſiſtance and ſupport to the actual Government of Madras, if any "change of circumſtances ſhould render it neceſſary for them to de-"ſire it."——

And that it is my intention to act as they have requeſted, of which I mean immediately to forward information to them, as I now do to you. I am,

Sir and Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) EDWARD HUGHES.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

George Stratton, Eſquire, Preſident and Governor, &c. Council——Fort St. George.

Number

Number 11.

Minute of Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan, dated 9th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

WHEN the Court of Directors were pleaſed to give orders by the Grenville, forbidding us to fill up vacancies in the Council here until it were reduced to twelve, it conſiſted of nineteen members. From theſe they appointed a Committee of five to make a circuit of the northern Circars and the Jagueer; beſides theſe five, and after allowing four others for the ſubordinate ſettlements, there remained ten for the Preſidency. When the Committee ſhould return from the Circars there would be fifteen for this Board, and after fulfilling the above order, by reducing the number to twelve, there would remain eight, which ſeems clearly to be the loweſt number to which the Company intend the general management of their affairs under this Preſidency ſhould be intruſted.

In the uſual courſe of the ſervice this order, as all others, ought certainly to be ſtrictly attended to. Servants as we are, and accountable for our conduct, nothing can excuſe us in deviating from their commands but ſome extraordinary emergency, ſome preſſing occaſion, which in their inſtructions may not be provided for. Such emergency and occaſion we are of opinion has now ariſen, by the late alteration that has happened in the Council; it was impoſſible that our Honourable Maſters ſhould either foreſee or provide againſt it; and ſuch being the caſe, it appears to us not only eligible, but requiſite, that we ſhould in the mean time fill up the vacancies in Council to what appears to have been their intention. By this we do not propoſe that they ſhould be put to any additional expenſe, or that it ſhould be conſidered in any other light than an expedient adopted in neceſſity until we can be favoured with their inſtructions.

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The Council now here will conſiſt of only five members, all of whom had a ſhare in the late diſſenſions and change of government. The impropriety of leaving in ſo few hands the whole management of the Company's affairs, political and commercial, but more eſpecially under the above circumſtances, is ſo evident, and at one view is ſo convincing, as to render argument unneceſſary.

On a conſideration of the orders of our Honourable Maſters reſpecting the Committee of Circuit, we find the truſt of ſuch magnitude and importance, that we are perſuaded it was intended by them that it ſhould be compoſed of Members of the Council; for they are not only to examine into the value, &c. of all the lands, but alſo to let them out; and as the ſtation of a Member of Council, under an oath of fidelity to the Company, implies a greater reſponſibility than is expected from an inferior ſervant, there ſeems ſufficient ground for this opinion.

By filling up the vacancies we ſhall not only be able to accompliſh the Company's intentions, but we ſhall add to our Councils men free of the late diſputes, and unbiaſſed in their opinions; and we ſhall have the credit of voluntarily, and of our own accord, diffuſing the power from the few hands in which it is at preſent confined into thoſe of a greater number; but by refraining to do ſo we may incur the imputation of being with-held by intereſted and ſelfiſh motives; perhaps the imputation alſo of what we underſtand has been alledged by Lord Pigot and his adherents, "*That we are a party, who have long wiſhed to get and retain* "*the government to ourſelves; and that the late change was greatly promoted* "*by the Nabob, who, they add, ſtill maintains an improper influence.*"

For all theſe reaſons we wiſh the Board to take into their ſerious conſideration the neceſſity of forthwith filling up the vacancies, that our Honourable Maſters may be adviſed thereof by the Swallow.

A true Copy. Chas. Oakeley, Secretary.

Number 12.

Minute of Meſſieurs Stratton, Brooke, Palmer, and Mackay, dated 9th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Minute of the Majority.

THE Preſident, Meſſieurs. Brooke, Palmer, and Mackay, cannot but expreſs their concern to be under the neceſſity of differing in opinion with Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan, on the ſubject of their minute entered on this day's conſultation, and to the motion made in conſequence by Sir Robert Fletcher. Becauſe they cannot admit that there are any vacancies in the Council, which now conſiſts of Meſſieurs Stratton, Dawſon, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſieurs Brooke, Whitehill, Smith, Johnſon, Floyer, Stracey, Hay, Cotsford, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, being two more than the number to which it is limited by the poſitive orders of the Court of Directors, beſides the gentlemen ſuſpended, whoſe ſeats in Council cannot be looked upon as vacated 'till the Court of Directors have diſmiſſed them from the ſervice. Becauſe, on the 29th laſt Auguſt, the Board were unanimouſly of opinion (as will appear by a minute then made, to which we refer) that they could not, without a manifeſt breach of the Company's orders received by the Grenville, add any new members to the Council; and, in our opinion, there were then ſtronger reaſons for the neceſſity of increaſing the Council than at preſent. Becauſe the Council, now at the Preſidency, are ſix in number, and if the Governor-General, with three members, (Colonel Monſon being ill) can manage the extenſive and important concerns committed to them by the State and by the Company, we cannot ſee why a Preſident and five members here may not tranſact the Company's affairs of this Preſidency. Becauſe, if the miſrepreſentations of Lord Pigot are good reaſons for increaſing the Council, they would be equally

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ſo if it conſiſted of double the number they are at preſent; as it is not to be doubted but Lord Pigot, in his preſent ſituation, would endeavour to make people believe they were influenced by the Nabob; and we have reaſon to think, that theſe reports are ſpread about with a view, not only to create diviſions among us, but to induce us to break the Company's poſitive orders, a deviation from which, we are determined never to conſent to, except in caſes of abſolute neceſſity, which we do not think exiſts at preſent. And here we cannot help expreſſing our ſurpriſe, that any weight ſhould be given to what Lord Pigot or his adherents may ſay, when the late meaſures have been ſo fully and unanimouſly approved of by the Governor-General and Council, who cannot be ſuppoſed to be biaſſed by any other motive than the public good, whoſe eagerneſs to expreſs their ſentiments anticipated even the official advices from the preſent Government, and led them to forward the ſame to the ſubordinates in the northern Circars. Becauſe we may have reaſon to expect that in eight or nine months at fartheſt ſome of the Council (now at home) will return, or that we ſhall receive particular orders from our Honourable Maſters on this and other ſubjects. For all which reaſons we hope to ſtand juſtified in not conſenting to the propoſition now before the Board.

A true Copy.

Minute of Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan.

WE cannot but take notice, in reply to the minute of the majority, that the Governor-General and Council is on a very different footing from this Preſidency. Important as the concerns intruſted to them are, they are limited to the government of the country, the commerce being intruſted to a ſeparate Council; whilſt this Board has the management of the whole, and in addition the members of this Government have many employs to attend to.

A true Copy.

Minute

Minute in anſwer to the above.

THE majority are of opinion, that the Governor-General and Council, conſidering their ſuperintending and controlling power over the Preſidencies of Madras, Bombay, and Bencoolen, have full as much buſineſs to tranſact as the members of this Government.

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 13.

Minutes of Conſultation, 29th Auguſt, 1776.
Received over-land by Lieuteant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

THE Board taking into conſideration the nomination of proper perſons for the Committee of Circuit, refer to the Company's orders on this ſubject, which are as follows:

Separate letter from England, 12th April, 1775.

" We therefore direct, that when affairs reſpecting Tanjore ſhall " have been accommodated and finally adjuſted, a Committee of our " Council, conſiſting of five members, be appointed to make the " circuit of the Northern Circars, &c."

When the Court of Directors gave theſe orders the Council conſiſted of nineteen, ſo that there were more than ſufficient for carrying on the Company's buſineſs at the Preſidency, for the Chiefſhips and for the Committee of Circuit; the caſe is now altered, for by the late change the Council is reduced to nine members on the Coaſt; two are gone home with leave, viz. Meſſieurs Dawſon and Whitehill, and two others, Meſſieurs Cotsford and Hay, are now in England, and have the leave of the Court of Directors for remaining there another year. The Honourable the Court of Directors, in their commands of the 12th of April, 1775, poſitively direct, that no new member ſhall be taken into Council 'till the numbers are reduced to twelve.

" Although

" Although from a variety of circumſtances, it has happened that " our Council at Fort St. George, have never been reduced to the " number of twelve, according to our directions in the year 1769, " nevertheleſs it is our poſitive order, that no future vacancy therein be " filled up by you, even proviſionally, until the Council ſhall be " reduced to the ſaid number twelve, &c."

Letter from England, 12 April, 1775, para. 64.

In this ſituation we are under the neceſſity of deviating from the orders of our Honourable Maſters, with reſpect to the Committee of Circuit, or in filling up the Council beyond the number preſcribed, which we think ought not to be done but in caſes of neceſſity; after the moſt mature deliberation on the ſubject, we are unanimouſly of opinion, that three vacancies now in the Committee of Circuit, by the ſuſpenſion of Meſſieurs Ruſſel, Dalrymple, and Lathom, be filled up by Meſſieurs Perring, Daniel, and Craufurd, thoſe gentlemen being near Council, and we are of opinion very capable of ſerving the Company on this important buſineſs. The Committee will then conſiſt of

Meſſrs. Johnſon,
Daniel, Floyer,
Craufurd, Perring.

Mr. Sadleir, the next ſervant on the liſt to Mr. Perring, cannot, we think, be employed until the Board come to a determination on his conduct at Ingeram. Mr. Davidſon has the charge of an employ of great truſt, which cannot, at this time, be transferred to another. Mr. Morgan Williams, the next ſervant on the liſt to Mr. Davidſon, having been many years at Vizagapatam, and well acquainted with the buſineſs of that ſettlement, we think his remaining there will be abſolutely neceſſary, as both the Chief and Second are ordered on the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. John Hollond is next to Mr. Williams, but he is Perſian tranſlator.

Mr. Williams to ſucceed Mr. Perring as Second.

Ordered, That Meſſieurs Perring, Daniel, and Craufurd, be wrote to, adviſing them of their appointments to the Committee of Circuit; that Meſſieurs Craufurd and Daniel be directed to proceed to Vizagapatam, where they will be joined by Meſſieurs Johnſon and Perring.

A true Copy. CHARLES OAKLEY, Secretary.

Number 14.

Circular Letter from the Governor-General and Council to the Subordinacies of the Preſidency of Fort St. George, dated Fort William, the 16th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Charles Floyer, Eſq; Chief, &c. Council at Maſulipatam.

GENTLEMEN,

WE were extremely alarmed at the information we received of the dangerous diviſions which had taken place in the Council at Fort St. George, of a conſequent ſeparation of a majority of the members from Lord Pigot, and the party which ſupported his violent meaſures, and of the ultimate ſeizure and confinement of his Lordſhip.

Having maturely conſidered the proceedings of George Stratton, Eſq; and the other members of the Council at Fort St. George, compoſing a majority of that government, we are of opinion, that the ſteps which they have been reduced to take, in aſſuming the government, and depriving Lord Pigot, their former Governor, of any powers or ſhare in the adminiſtration of that Preſidency, were juſtified by the neceſſity of the caſe, and we are determined to acknowledge and ſupport their authority, as the only legal and conſtitutional government of Fort St. George. We think it neceſſary to communicate to you our ſentiments and reſolutions on this ſubject; and in order to remove any doubt which

you may have of the part which you ought to take, or of the authority which it is your duty to obey on the preſent occaſion, we tranſmit you an extract of a general letter received from the Honourable the Court of Directors by the Lioneſs and Shrewſbury.

We are,

Fort William,
16th Sept. 1776.

Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

WARREN HASTINGS
J. CLAVERING
RICHd BARWELL
P. FRANCIS.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Colonel Stuart's Report of the manner in which he executed the Orders given him in the Minute of Conſultation of the 23d Auguſt, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

AS ſoon as I had an opportunity of being well informed of the general ground upon which the late majority (who now compoſe the government) had ſeparated themſelves from Lord Pigot and the gentlemen who adhered to him, ſome particulars of which were ſignified to the publick, and to me, by the letter of Auguſt 23d, directed to me by the Notary Public, Mr. Bromley, I did not heſitate to conclude it my duty to obey their orders; and in this view, I had no difficulty in determining what part I was to act at the time when I received from Mr. Stratton the order contained in their minute of conſultation of Auguſt 23d. In conſequence of the power veſted in me by that minute, I forthwith formed the plan of putting this fortreſs into the poſſeſſion of what I conſidered to be the legal government, with as little danger and confuſion as

as poſſible. The principal officers of the garriſon and neighbourhood, who, as I ſuppoſe, had received the ſame information, from the proteſt circulated by the Notary Public, Mr. Bromley, gave a ready concurrence on their part to aſſiſt me. It became an object of great importance towards the publick peace of the ſettlement, to ſecure the perſon of Lord Pigot. My own knowledge of the man, and what I heard from others of his violent haſty temper, made his arreſt neceſſary in my opinion, and I had taken meaſures to arreſt him, even in the fort, had it been neceſſary, but I ſhall ever think it a fortunate circumſtance that I was not driven to this neceſſity. After the Fort-Adjutant had delivered to me, by order of Lord Pigot, the general orders of the 23d Auguſt, appointing me to the command of the army, I went in the evening to the Fort Square, at Lord Pigot's deſire, to meet him; we had ſome converſation apart, the ſubſtance of which was, that he conſidered my having received the general orders, without objection, as an acknowledgment of the authority by which they were publiſhed; on my part, without contradicting that poſition, I told his Lordſhip, that I owed to the Court of Directors the obligation of being next in command to Sir Robert Fletcher, and I preſſed his Lordſhip to allow me communication of the records. He gave no preciſe anſwer, but aſked me to ſupper, as he ſaid, with his friend, which I promiſed to do, provided he gave me his word, that nothing of buſineſs ſhould be talked of. Meſſieurs Stone, Dalrymple, Lathom, and the Sub-Secretary, Mr. Baine, were of the party. Next morning, the 24th Auguſt, I thought proper to write Lord Pigot a letter, again requeſting communication of the records, before I was called upon for any executive act as Commander in Chief. This letter I delivered after breakfaſting with him at his Garden-houſe; he read it with ſeeming attention, did not deny the reaſonableneſs of the requeſt, but objected to the manner, as it looked like making a bargain before I conſented to do my duty. He aſked me to dinner, I waited at home from nine o'clock 'till one, in expectation of being called to Council. I then went to the houſe called the Admiralty, and again urged my requeſt, to be informed from the records, of the

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grounds that had given riſe to the honour conferred upon me in general orders; I had no anſwer that gave me any ſatisfaction. After dinner was over, Lord Pigot aſked me to ſup; I enquired particularly whether he ſupped in town or at the Garden-Houſe; he told me, in the country, but that he would ſee me at ſix in the Fort Square. About five in the afternoon I received a note from the Sub-Secretary, Mr. Baine, deſiring my attendance on Council at ſix o'clock. By this time I had entirely completed my plan, and had entruſted the execution of it to Lieutenant-Colonel Edingtoun, the Adjutant-General, to Captain Lyſaught, then in the garriſon, and to Major Horne, commanding the corps of artillery at the Mount. The firſt gentleman I ordered to poſt himſelf at a certain place on the road, with a few Seapoys, to ſtop the carriage in which he would ſee Lord Pigot and me, to diſperſe the attendants, and to arreſt Lord Pigot in the name of Government.

I ordered Captain Lyſaught to be near at hand with a chaiſe, and an orderly ſerjeant, to convey Lord Pigot to Major Horne's, at St. Thomas's Mount, and give him my orders and inſtructions for the Major. I poſted another officer near Lord Pigot's guard, at the Garden-Houſe, to prevent their getting under arms in caſe of an alarm. Having made this diſpoſition, I went to Council, where Lord Pigot arrived half an hour after ſix. There were preſent Meſſieurs Ruſſell, Dalrymple, Stone, Lathom, Mr. Secretary Sulivan, and Mr. Baine; but they did not ſeem to be regularly met, or ſitting as a Board. Lord Pigot retired with one or two gentlemen for ſome minutes, and then brought in his hand a parchment, which he called the commiſſion of government, in order to convince me that there was no power in the Council to diſmiſs or ſuſpend the Governor. There was much converſation upon this and other ſubjects, which I confeſs I induſtriouſly ſpun out to gain time 'till it was dark. The utmoſt efforts of Lord Pigot, and the gentlemen, were uſed to obtain an avowed acknowledgement of their authority by ſome publick act on my part; particularly, they deſired that I might, as Commander in Chief, direct the Adjutant-General to publiſh in ge-

neral orders to the army the reſolution of Council, whereby Sir Robert Fletcher was put in arreſt, and I was appointed to the command. I repeated, at full length, the hardſhip of obliging me to take this or any other ſtep without giving me communication of the reaſon of their proceedings, adding, that I conſidered it as a right peculiar to the officer commanding the forces, who, from his ſtation, is entitled to a ſeat in Council. Mr. Dalrymple and others, in anſwer ſaid, it was my duty to obey. I fought off the beſt way I could, and a great deal of vague converſation followed, the particulars of which very poſſibly Mr. Secretary Sulivan may recollect. It was now about half an hour after eight, and Lord Pigot had agreed to drive me to the Garden Houſe in his chaiſe. The Adjutant-General ſtopped the chaiſe according to orders, and I told Lord Pigot that he muſt go with Captain Lyſaught, who accordingly delivered him over to Major Horne. I then ſent the Adjutant-General to the houſe where the ſeven members of Council were aſſembled, to acquaint them that every thing was ready for their reception in the Fort Square. I returned myſelf to the Fort, where I found every one in the beſt diſpoſition to acknowledge their authority.

I do not take any minute notice here of Mr. Ruſſell's conduct, in attempting to give orders to the main-guard in my preſence, and in the preſence of almoſt all the officers in the garriſon. I was under the neceſſity of forcing him from the parade, in order to bring him before Council, where I wiſhed he ſhould remain 'till he heard what I had to ſay upon the occaſion, the particulars of which appear upon the minutes of conſultation of the 24th at night.

The Board having information that underhand practices were made uſe of to draw the ſoldiery from their duty, which they had reaſon to believe were encouraged by the local reſidence of Lord Pigot, they empowered me to take ſuch meaſures as I thought proper to remove his Lordſhip to Chingleput.

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On the 26th I ordered Major Cook thither to receive his Lordſhip, and to provide the neceſſary things for his Lordſhip's convenience; and on the 27th I alſo ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Edingtoun to proceed to St. Thomas's Mount, and concert meaſures with Major Horne, that, with the leaſt noiſe and diſturbance to the ladies of Lord Pigot's family, he might be conveyed in a chaiſe along with Lieutenant-Colonel Edingtoun to Chingleput. As to what paſſed on this occaſion, I refer to Lieutenant Colonel Edingtoun and Serjeant Shaw's affidavits.

I cannot cloſe this narrative without adding my ſatisfaction at having had an opportunity, in preſence of the Council and of all the officers of the garriſon aſſembled on the 24th at night, to declare my ſentiments upon the nature of a free government under the auſpices of the Britiſh Conſtitution, that it conſiſted in the due ſubordination of the military to the civil power. This declaration I made in the name of all the officers of the garriſon then preſent, to which they unanimouſly aſſented. Were it neceſſary to bring additional proofs of my real ſentiments at this criſis, I might refer to my converſation in preſence of a large company next day aſſembled at dinner at the Governor's in the Fort Square, and the public toaſt I gave on that occaſion, unanimouſly approved by the civil and military ſervants then preſent; it was, "Juſtice to the army, "while ſubordinate to the civil power."

Though a ſoldier upwards of 29 years ſtanding, I have never one moment loſt ſight of the bleſſings of civil liberty, and I ſhall ever eſteem it the moſt honourable and moſt fortunate circumſtance in my life, to have been in any degree the inſtrument of recovering the legal authority of the Company's Repreſentatives, and I am ready to riſk my all to ſupport and maintain the eſtabliſhed conſtitution, according to my oath of fidelity as a ſervant of the Honourable Company.

JAMES STUART.

A true Copy, R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Declaration.

Declaration of Mr. Bromley, Notary-Publick.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper 30th March, 1777.

ON this day, being Wedneſday the eleventh of September, in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-ſix, I Charles Bromley, of Fort St. George, in the Eaſt-Indies, Notary-Publick, Do declare, that on Friday the 23d day of Auguſt, in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-ſix, did, as Notary-Publick, at the requeſt of George Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay Eſquires, of Council of Fort St. George, deliver a declaration in writing, under the hands of the ſaid gentlemen, unto the Honourable George Lord Pigot, addreſſed to the ſaid George Lord Pigot, Claud Ruſſell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone of Council, Eſquires, which ſaid writing the ſaid George Lord Pigot did receive. That ſome time after, on the ſame day, he, this declarant, did, at the directions of the ſaid George Stratton Eſq; &c. Gentlemen of Council aforementioned, leave ſundry atteſted copies of ſuch declaration with many of the inhabitants both civil and military of Fort St. George. That ſoon after ſuch ſervice, the ſaid George Lord Pigot ſent (being the afternoon of the ſame day) for this declarant, who went to his Lordſhip, when his Lordſhip, being in a room by himſelf, did, in a moſt violent manner, threaten this declarant with an immediate impriſonment for daring to ſerve theſe atteſted copies of the ſaid George Stratton, &c. declaration, and inſiſted on this deponent giving up his, this deponent's, inſtructions, and that in caſe this declarant did not diſcover and diſcloſe the particulars of his inſtructions, to priſon this declarant muſt go, being a ſower of ſedition and mutiny. Upon this deponent's declaring, that what he had done was in conſequence of his duty as Notary-Publick, and not contrary to law; to which his Lordſhip replied, then damn him, this declarant ſhould go to priſon, and not tell him about law; and that he would ſend for the Sheriff and put this declarant into his cuſtody. This declarant acquainted

quainted his Lordſhip, that the Sheriff, as this declarant then ſtood, was of no conſequence to this declarant; his Lordſhip anſwered, that he would ſee into that, and ſpeak to his Council that were then ſitting, but directed this declarant to ſtay until his and their pleaſure were known. Soon after this declarant was called in, and the Board ſeated, compoſed of his Lordſhip, Claud Ruſſell, Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone, and Richard Lathom Eſquires, where this declarant was aſked by his Lordſhip, how he preſumed to write theſe circulatory declarations and notices in the garriſon; that what the declarant had done was in open defiance of his Government, which was then at that time a military one, as his Lordſhip pronounced; and that according to the articles of war, which articles were produced by one of the gentlemen preſent, and expatiated upon by Mr. Alexander Dalrymple, that the declarant came under them as a ſower of ſedition, and a perſon who ſpread mutiny among the men, and therefore neceſſary, for the good of the whole, to ſend the declarant to priſon, which the declarant was apprehenſive of from their ignorance of the buſineſs. As no one argument was advanced by the Board, then ſitting, in ſupport of their aſſertions, this declarant was told by his Lordſhip, and aſſented to by the gentlemen preſent, they ſeconding his Lordſhip, that unleſs this declarant would give up the authority they ſuppoſed this declarant received from George Stratton Eſq; &c. this declarant muſt be confined. This declarant informed his Lordſhip and the Board, that they were at liberty to diſpoſe of his perſon as they thought proper, but his ſentiments would be ſtill the ſame reſpecting his duty, a part of which was to keep ſecret and not diſcloſe the truſt repoſed in him by his employers; this declarant further informing the Board, that the gentlemen, who had ſet their names to the declaration delivered in to his Lordſhip in the morning by this declarant, would, at any time, acknowledge in Court and out, whenever called upon, that their names thereto affixed were of their own reſpective hand-writing, and that he, this deponent, would alſo, at any time, and in any place, aſſert the ſame. This deponent being ſtill kept at the Council-Board, hearing their arguments, and, amongſt the reſt,

Mr. Alexander Dalrymple did obſerve, that this declarant would abſcond, and therefore neceſſary he, this declarant, ſhould be either confined or give ſome ſecurity; all which the declarant proteſted againſt, as unbecoming his character both in his public and private ſtation, and did advance, that his, the declarant's circumſtances were too conſiderable to leave behind; but, to obviate a difficulty, this deponent did plede his word and honour not to leave the Fort or it's diſtricts without leave of that Board.—This obſervation of Mr. Alexander Dalrymple, and the declarant's offer, occaſioned ſome deliberations which ended in favour of this declarant, whom his Lordſhip ſaid he would diſmiſs on this declarant's promiſe of being forth-coming, whenever his Lordſhip and that Board ſhould call upon him.—Upon this deponent's engaging ſo to do, this deponent was diſmiſſed.

CHAS. BROMLEY, Not. Publ.

A true Copy, R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, &c. Council to Major Horne, dated Fort St. George, 15th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

SIR,

THE Preſident has laid before us your letter dated yeſterday, acquainting him that you had again ſpoke to his Lordſhip of the inconveniency the Secretaries ſuffered from the want of the public papers, but that you did not find his Lordſhip in the leaſt inclined to ſend any perſon, on his behalf, to ſelect them from his private ones; that Mr. Dalrymple would have brought his papers away, but was not ſuffered, and that the room being ſealed up was not his doing.

In anſwer to the above, we are to deſire you will acquaint his Lordſhip, that on the 25th of laſt month, Meſſieurs Dalrymple and

Stone came to the Fort Houſe, and in going into the room where his Lordſhip uſually wrote, were told by the Preſident in preſence of Meſſieurs Brooke and Floyer, and afterwards of Colonel Stuart, that as they conceived Lord Pigot's private papers in that room were intermixed with thoſe of a public nature; it was propoſed to them, that whenever it ſhould be convenient to thoſe gentlemen, or to any other whom Lord Pigot might appoint, the Secretaries would attend them to ſelect the public papers that were there; in the mean time, the Preſident recommended to Meſſieurs Dalrymple and Stone, to put Lord Pigot's ſeal on the doors with that of the Preſident, to prevent any perſon whatever from going there, until the papers and effects of his Lordſhip were removed, to which propoſition Meſſieurs Dalrymple and Stone readily aſſenting, Mr. Dalrymple took Lord Pigot's ſeal out of his pocket, with which he ſealed every door which had communication with that apartment; the Preſident then affixed his ſeal alſo in the preſence of the above named gentlemen, and they continue in that ſtate to this day. The Preſident then declared to theſe gentlemen, that he had made it a point not to go before into that or the adjoining room.

When you have repreſented the foregoing circumſtances to Lord Pigot, we hope he will ſee with us the neceſſity of his deſiring any gentleman to ſelect his own papers, and that the public ones may be delivered over to us.

We underſtand from Mr. Majendie, Clerk to the Committee of Treaſury, that Lord Pigot informed him that one of the keys of the Treaſury was among his papers, which we are to requeſt his Lordſhip will alſo direct to be delivered up to us.

We are, Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

Fort St. George,
15th September, 1776. GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

P. S.

P. S. We are alſo to deſire you will acquaint Lord Pigot, that we this * evening reſolved to diſpatch the ſhip Grenville to England, on the 20th inſtant.

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, Eſq; &c. Council, to Major
Fort St. George, 17th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

SIR,

WE are to deſire that you will communicate to Lord Pigot the accompanying copies of a letter to us from Mr. Paul Benfield, with our anſwer thereto; and ſhould his Lordſhip be deſirous of having copies of them, you will furniſh him accordingly.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George, the 17th September, 1776. Your moſt obedient ſervants,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

A true Copy, R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, Eſq; &c. Council, to Major Horne, dated Fort St. George 18th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Major Matthew Horne, commanding at the Mount.

SIR,

WE have received your letter of yeſterday.

Since Lord Pigot has informed you, that he believes there are no other publick papers with his own, except the general letter from the Company by the Triton, of which we have a duplicate, and ſome ſe-

* N. B. *The Conſultation of the 15th of September, is not contained in the book received from Colonel Capper.*

cret

cret inſtructions rom the Court of Directors reſpecting their homeward-bound ſhips. We deſire you will ſignify to his Lordſhip, he is at liberty to ſend any perſon to remove his private papers and effects whenever he ſhall think proper, and that we ſhall rely on his Lordſhip delivering up all thoſe of a publick nature.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George, 18th September, 1776.

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

P. S. We deſire you will acquaint his Lordſhip, that the conſultations at which he preſided are ready for ſigning, and that, if it be agreeable to him, the Secretaries will accordingly attend him with the conſultations for that purpoſe.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Return of Ordnance and Stores at Tanjore for the Month of June, 1776.

Qualities.	Remains 31ſt May	Received	Iſſued	For what ſervice, and by whoſe order.	Remains 30th June
Braſs guns and carr. 6 pounders	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Tumbrils — — —	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Round ſhot fix'd, 6 pounders	424	——	——	—— ——	424
Grape do. do. do.	76	——	——	—— ——	76
Flannel cartridges, do.	79	——	——	—— ——	79
Do. empty bags do.	99	——	——	—— ——	99
Cloth do. do. do.	140	——	128	For his Majeſty's birth-day, &c. Colonel Harper	12
Tubes filled do.	932	——	128	Do. do. do. do. do. do.	804
Port fires — — —	208	——	18	Do. do. do. do. do. do.	190
Match — — —	——	——	——	—— ——	——
Europe Sks.	12	——	——	—— ——	12
Cotton — do.	15	——	——	—— ——	15
Country — do.	18	50	9	For the uſe of the garri. do. do.	59
Tube boxes with ſtraps	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Port fire ſticks — —	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Claw hammers — —	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Pinchers — pairs	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Priming wires and bitts, each	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Round, ragged, and ſpring ſpikes, each	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Relieves for do. —	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Aprons, lead — —	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Spunges —— — —	——	——	——	—— ——	——
12 pounders —	2	——	——	—— ——	2
6 do. — —	14	——	——	—— ——	14
3 do. — —	2	——	——	—— ——	2
Ladles —— —	——	——	——	—— ——	——
12 pounders —	2	——	——	—— ——	2
6 — —	4	——	——	—— ——	4
3 — —	2	——	——	—— ——	2
Haverſacks and buckets, each	8	——	——	—— ——	8
Drag ropes — prs.	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Tompions with collars	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Padlocks with keys	12	——	——	—— ——	12
Handſpikes — —	——	——	——	—— ——	——
Traverſing	8	——	——	—— ——	8
Purchaſing	8	——	——	—— ——	8
Tarpaulins — —	——	——	——	—— ——	——
Large — —	2	——	——	—— ——	2

Tarpaulin

Qualities.	Remains 31ſt May	Received	Iſſued	For what ſervice, and by whoſe order.	Remains 30th June
Tarpaulins					
Gun — —	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Tumbril	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Greaſe —— duprs.	1 3/4	——	1/4	For the uſe of the carriages, Storekeeper	1 1/2
Tar — — do.	1 3/4	——	1/4		1 1/2
Spare yokes	——	——	——	—— ——	——
Single —	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Double — —	12	——	——	—— ——	12
Country rope — —	——	——	——	—— ——	——
4 1/2 inch coil	1/2	——	——	—— ——	1/2
3 1/2 do. do.	3 1/2	——	——	—— ——	3 1/2
2 1/2 do. do.	1 1/4	——	——	—— ——	1 1/4
Twine	——	——	——	—— ——	——
Europe — ſkn.	5	——	1	For mending tarpaulin, Storek.	4
Bengal — do.	4	——	——	—— ——	4
Country — lb.	4	——	1	For coating of ſpunges, do.	3
Small coir for laſhing bundles	3	——	——	—— ——	3
Sinnet — — fath.	30	——	5	For coating of ſpunges	25
Spun-yarn — — balls	7 1/2	——	——	—— ——	7 1/2
Private tents — — —	2	——	——	—— ——	2
Gun flags — — —	1	——	——	—— ——	1
Hambro' line — ſks.	3 3/4	——	——	—— ——	3 3/4
Marline — — — do.	12	——	——	—— ——	12
A park line — —	1	——	——	—— ——	1
Do. pickets ſhod — —	12	——	——	—— ——	12
Gun ſcrapers — —	2	——	——	—— ——	2
Gun ſearchers — —	3	——	——	—— ——	3
Do. fiſhes — — —	3	——	——	—— ——	3
Artificers cart — —	1	——	——	—— ——	1
Steel, country — — —	1	——	1	For repairing ſcrapers and ſearchers, Storekeeper	——
Felling axes — —	3	——	——	—— ——	3
Hand do. — — —	3	——	——	—— ——	3
Hand hammers — —	3	——	——	—— ——	3
Anvil — — —	1	——	——	—— ——	1
Pick axes — — —	1	——	——	—— ——	1
Bill hooks — —	6	——	——	—— ——	6
Mamolies — — —	15	——	——	—— ——	15
Handſaws — — —	2	——	——	—— ——	2
Country do. large — —	1	——	——	—— ——	1

Qualities.	Remains 31st May	Received	Issued	For what service, and by whose orders.	Remains 30th June
Rasps	2				2
Bench vice	1				1
Hand vice	1				1
Augers	4				4
Gimblets	4				4
Sledge hammers	1				1
Plains	2				2
Bellows pairs	4				4
Spare axle-trees	2				2
Dammers lb.	3				3
Chalk lb.		6			6
Solder lb.	4				4
Borax lb.	1				1
Canvas yards	34		4	For the repairing of tarpaulins, Storekeeper	30
Wax cloth piece	1				1
White cloth do.	5		3	For making cartridge bags, Colonel Harper	2
Blue do. do.	2				2
Gunny do.	8				8
Do. bags	37				37
Europe hydes	¾				
Sciffars pairs	7				7
Laboratory knives	6				6
Palms	7				7
Needles					
Sail	12				12
Gunny	5				5
Small	53				53
Cotton thread lb.	4		1	For making cartridges, Colonel Harper	3
Bees wax lb.	1		½	Do. do. do.	
Rattan bundles	¼				
Lanthorn	2		1	For the use of the Commanding Officer, Col. Harper	1
Wax candles md.	½				
Cocoanut oil feers.	1		1	For the use of elevating screws, &c. Storekeeper	
Linseed oil gall.	¾		¼	For making of the guns, Colonel Harper.	

Spani

Qualities.	Remains 31ſt May	Received	Iſſued	For what ſervice, and by whoſe orders.	Remains 30th June
Spaniſh white — lb.	6	—	—	— —	6
White lead — lb.	—	3	2	For the marking of the guns, Colonel Harper	1
Scales and compaſſes ſets	1	—	—	— —	1
Muſket ball cartridges —	45055	—	3356	To the European and Seapoys, Colonel Harper	41699
Carbine do. — —	2000	—	—	— —	2000
Muſket flints — —	1966	—	1185	To the European and Seapoys, do.	781
Carbine do. — —	200	—	—	— —	200
Muſket blunt cartridges —	76174	—	36760	To the European and Seapoys, do.	39414
Looſe muſket balls —	36	17666	—	From the European and Seapoys	17702
Drum heads — —	10	—	—	— —	10
Sticks — prs.	6	—	—	— —	6
Cords — —	17	—	—	— —	17
Braces — ſets	24	—	—	— —	24
Snares — do.	23	—	—	— —	23
Paper, country — reams	12½	—	—	— —	12½
Copper hoops — —	14	—	—	— —	14
Europe powder — lb.	108	—	—	— —	108
Nabob's do. — do.	30	460	490	For the uſe of the morning and evening guns, and Colonel Harper	—
Iron ſhot 26 pound. —	—	64	—	— —	64
20 do. — —	—	170	—	— —	170
12 do. — —	—	117	—	— —	117
Shells 13 inch — —	—	11	—	— —	11
8 do. — —	—	1	—	Found in the garriſon —	1
5½ do. — —	—	13	—	— —	13
4⅕ do. — —	—	1	—	— —	1
Iron grape of ſorts —	—	2550	—	— —	2550
Stone ſhot, do. — —	—	15873	—	— —	15873

HENRY BROOKE, Military Storekeeper.

Preſent State of Ordnance and Stores in the Garriſon of Tanjore, 13th Auguſt, 1776.

Qualities.	Quantity
Detachment.	
Braſs guns, 6 pounders	4
Carriages with limbers	4
Tumbrils	4
Round ſhot fixed, 6 pounders	424
Grape ditto ditto	96
Flannel cartridges ditto	79
Ditto empty bags	99
Cloth ditto	146
Tubes filled	802
Port fires	190
Match,	
Europe — ſks.	12
Cotton — ditto	15
Country — ditto	54
Tube boxes	4
Claw hammers	4
Pinchers — prs.	4
Prickers and bitts, each	4
Spikes,	
Round	4
Ragged	4
Spring	4
Reliefs for ditto	4
Aprons of lead	4
Spunges,	
12 pounders	2
6 ditto	14
3 ditto	2
Ladles,	
12 pounders	2
6 ditto	4
3 ditto	2
Haverſacks and buckets each	8
Drag ropes — prs.	4

Qualities.	Quantity
Tompions with collars	4
Padlocks with keys	12
Handſpikes,	
Traverſing	8
Purchaſing	8
Tarpaulins,	
Large	2
Gun	4
Tumbril	4
Dupper's greaſe and tar, each	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Yokes,	
Single	4
Double	12
Country rope,	
$4\frac{1}{2}$ inch coils	$\frac{1}{2}$
$3\frac{1}{2}$ ditto ditto	$3\frac{1}{2}$
$2\frac{1}{2}$ ditto ditto	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Small coir for laſhing bundles	3
Sinnet lb.	25
Twine,	
Europe — ſks.	4
Bengal — ditto	4
Country — lb.	3
Spun yarn — balls	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Private tents	2
Gun flag	1
Hambro' line — ſks.	$3\frac{1}{4}$
Marline — ditto	12
Parkline — ditto	1
Ditto pickets (ſhod)	12
Gun ſcrapers	2
Ditto ſearchers	3
Ditto fiſhers	3
Artificer's cart	1
Felling axes	3

Continued.

Qualities.	Quantity
Hand axes	3
Sledge hammers	1
Hand ditto	3
Anvil	1
Pickaxes	1
Bill hooks	6
Mamolies	15
Hand ſaws	2
Country ditto, large	1
Raſps	2
Bench vice	1
Hand ditto	1
Augers	4
Gimblets	4
Planes	2
Bellows prs.	4
Spare axle-trees	2
Dammer lb.	3
Chalk ditto	6
Solder ditto	4
Borax ditto	1
Canvas yards	30
Wax cloth pieces	1
White ditto ditto	2
Blue ditto ditto	2
Gunny pieces	8
Ditto bags	37
Europe hydes	¾
Sciſſars pairs	7
Laboratory knives	6
Palms	7
Needles,	
Sail	12
Gunny	5
Small	53
Cotton thread lb.	3
Rattan bundles	6

Qualities.	Quantity
Lanthorn	1
Wax candles md.	¼
Cocoanut oil ſeers	5
Linſeed oil galls.	
Wood oil ditto	2
White lead lb.	3
Indigo ditto	4
Scales and weights ſets	1
Muſket ball cartridges	41662
Carbine ditto ditto	2000
Looſe muſket balls	17727
Muſket flints, field	702
Carbine ditto ditto	200
Blunt cartridges	39414
Drum ſticks pairs	6
Cords	17
Snares ſets	23
Braces ditto	24
Country paper reams	12½
Cooper hooks	14
Garriſon.	
Iron guns,	
26 pounder	3
20 ditto	4
16 ditto	2
12 ditto	6
10 ditto	7
9 ditto	2
8 ditto	6
6 ditto	21
5¼ ditto	8
4 ditto	7
3 ditto	6
2 ditto	9
1 ditto	14

Swivels

Continued.

Qualities.	Quantity	Qualities.	Quantity
Swivels ½ pounder	14	A number of chests full of powder	
Braſs guns,		Mamolies ——	908
20 ditto	1	Iron crows ——	50
5¼ ditto	1	Bill hooks ——	100
4 ditto	1	Malabar gun,	
2 ditto	2	22 inches	1
1½ ditto	1	19½ ditto	1
1 ditto	2	16½ ditto	1
Small braſs guns unſerviceable —	11	11½ ditto	1
Braſs mortars,		9½ ditto	1
13 inch	1	8½ ditto	1
10 ditto	1	8 ditto	1
8 ditto	1	5 ditto	1
5½ ditto	1	9 ditto	1
Iron mortars, 8 inch	1	Iron Shells,	
Garriſon carriages without wheels, repairable	49	13 inch	11
		8 ditto	1
Ditto with wheels, ditto	24	5½ ditto	13
Truck carriages, ditto	8	4½ ditto	1
Spare wheels, ditto —	39	Iron ſhot,	
Gunpowder a great quantity		26 pounder	64
Saltpetre ditto		20 ditto	170
Sulphur ditto		12 ditto	117
A quantity of coarſe quick match unſerviceable		Iron grape of ſorts	2550
		Stone ſhot of different Calibres	15750
A number of empty cheſts		Ditto ſhells ditto ditto	172

HENRY BROOKE, Military Storekeeper.

Letter

Letter from Mr. Benfield.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Eſq. Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George, dated 8th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

HAVING never given cauſe to Lord Pigot to draw his reſentment on me, I was at a loſs to find out the reaſon why his Lordſhip was induced to take meaſures againſt me ſo injurious to my credit and fortune as have been repreſented by me to the Board; I now clearly perceive that his views in ſo doing were intereſted, and that it was his own good, not that of the Company, he purſued in thoſe meaſures during his late adminiſtration. As a ſervant to the Company, and wiſhing to bring to light the true motives of Lord Pigot's publick conduct, as well as in juſtice to myſelf, I take this occaſion to inform your Honour, &c. that I have arrived at the knowledge of certain tranſactions of the late Preſident Lord Pigot, ſuch as his obtaining very large ſums of money, jewels, and plate, to a great amount, from Indian Princes, contrary to covenants and the repeated orders of the Company, and which conſtitute him guilty of infringement of the late Act of Parliament.

As I am reſolved to take every legal method, by proſecution or otherwiſe, here and in England, to prove beyond a doubt this delinquency and breach of public truſt in his Lordſhip; and as I ſhall have occaſion to apply to the Honourable Board to obtain certain evidences reſiding within the bounds of Tanjore, or in places belonging to his Highneſs the Nabob of the Carnatic, I truſt I ſhall meet with your aſſiſtance and ſupport.

I have thought it my duty not only to make thoſe repreſentations to your Honour, &c. but that they may be known to Lord Pigot himſelf,

againſt whom I mean to commence proſecutions before the Cou competent in thoſe caſes.

Madras,
8th September, 1776,

I am, with reſpect,
Honourable Sir and Sirs,
Your obedient humble ſervant,
PAUL BENFIELD.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, &c. Council, to Mr. Benfield, dated Fort St. George, 17th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Mr. Paul Benfield.

SIR,

YESTERDAY we received your letter dated the 8th inſtant, and are at a loſs to underſtand what you mean by the words *obtaining evidences.* The only way in which we can act is this, to recommend to the Princes in alliance with the Honourable Company to permit ſuch of their ſubjects to come here as may be neceſſary to give evidence in any ſuits you may judge it proper to prefer againſt Lord Pigot, without interfering in any other reſpect either by our authority or influence.

We ſhall tranſmit copy of your letter, with our anſwer, to Major Horne, in order that he may communicate the ſame to Lord Pigot.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George,
17th September, 1776.

Your moſt obedient ſervants,
GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, &c. Secretary.

Translation of a Maratta Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore to the Honourable George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council at Fort St. George, dated 8th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I SENT ſome cloths as a preſent, with a letter to your Honour, which you was pleaſed to accept of with great kindneſs; and, at the ſame time, your Honour was pleaſed to tell my Vackeels, Treumbaga, Saumbajee, and Rudrajee Pundat, that you would aſſiſt in all affairs of my Government. This particular news my Vackeels wrote to me, and alſo Colonel Harper acquainted me particularly with all news you wrote to him, by which I was ſo overjoyed that I cannot expreſs it in my letter.

I am eſtabliſhed in the Government by the protection of the Honourable Company, and they bear the heavineſs of ſupporting me with ſincere kindneſs. In all reſpects I depend on them, without taking any further conſideration concerning my Government-affairs, which muſt be ſettled by your aſſiſtance and protection.

The Anracutt, or bank of the river Cavary, has been broke, which to repair, and to encourage the inhabitants of the country to carry on the cultivating buſineſs, will coſt me one Lack of Pagodas, which ſum I beg of the Honourable Company to lend me. The Poligars diſturb the people in my country; I muſt take the trouble to reprimand them, and bring them into a proper way.

Concerning the above-mentioned three different affairs I wrote to my Vackeels, in order to explain them to your Honour in a particular manner.

I hope you will be pleaſed to take theſe affairs into your ſerious conſideration, and get them done according to my Vackeels requeſt. They will

will always attend on your Honour, and will apply to you for all the affairs of my Government.

I am as your youngeſt brother, and I ſhall not forget any of your kindneſſes as long as I live; you are very ſenſible of this; I need not acquaint you of any thing further of my affairs.

What can I ſay more?

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Tranſlation of a Maratta Letter from Tuljaujee, Maharajah of Tanjore, to the Honourable George Stratton, Eſq. Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George, dated the 15th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I AM to acquaint your Honour, &c. Gentlemen, that I have received your favour dated the 10th inſtant, which I have peruſed and am greatly rejoiced at it. I cannot mention in this letter what joy I felt on peruſing of it. I find continually your Honours intend by ſeveral means to ſhew favour and aſſiſtance to all the ſubjects of my Government. As my Government was ſettled by the favour and aſſiſtance of the Honourable Company, all the honour and credit which they do me ought to be their's. I am informed by your letter of all the affairs which you intend doing for me in future, on being informed of this; I am perfectly ſatisfied, and carry in my mind all the favours that were done by the Honourable Company hitherto. I wiſh always that your favour and aſſiſtance to me may be encreaſed daily. You are ſenſible of every thing.

What can I ſay more?

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Extract

Extract of General Letter from George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Eſquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Fourdan, and George Mackay, Eſquires, dated Fort St. George, 21ſt September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Civil Department.

21. MR. FLOYER, whom your Honours were pleaſed to appoint Chief of Mazulipatam in ſucceſſion to Mr. Whitehill, arrived here on the Greenwich. Mr. Whitehill had ſome months before obtained leave to go home, and the Chiefſhip being vacant on Mr. Floyer's arrival, that gentleman immediately made application to go down to Mazulipatam in conſequence of your appointment. Lord Pigot poſitively refuſed his concurrence, obſerving that he had received information of ſome great abuſes which had crept into the management of the Company's affairs at Mazulipatam, and that until theſe were enquired into and remedied he could not aſſent to Mr. Floyer's going down.

Conſult. 7th June.

22. On the 21ſt June Mr. Floyer was formally appointed to the Chiefſhip in conſequence of your orders, Lord Pigot minuting upon the occaſion, that he was of opinion your Honours had made "An "improper appointment, not only in the manner in which it had been "done, but as it was an injury to Mr. Floyer's ſeniors."

Revenue Department.

23. Mr. Floyer was ſtill detained here in expectation that Lord Pigot would lay before the Board the information he had mentioned relative to the abuſes exiſting at Mazulipatam. His Lordſhip took no ſteps for this purpoſe until the 9th of Auguſt, when he laid before the Board a draught of a letter which he had prepared for Mazulipatam, containing the ſubſtance of what he meant to offer on the ſubject of thoſe abuſes. On reference to it we doubt not your Honours will be equally diſappointed with ourſelves to find there was nothing mentioned by the Preſident of any importance, or which ought to have detained

Conſult. 9th Auguſt.

Mr. Floyer a moment from his Chiefſhip.—The Chief and Council at Mazulipatam will be directed to enquire into the ſubject of the letter propoſed by Lord Pigot to be ſent to that Settlement, and Mr. Floyer himſelf will go down to take charge of the Chiefſhip after the departure of the Grenville.

28. In our conſultation of the 28th June your Honours will find a minute entered by Lord Pigot, urging a variety of reaſons to ſhew the propriety of appointing a Chief and Council at Tanjore, recommending that meaſure in the ſtrongeſt terms to the Board, and propoſing Mr. Ruſſell to be Chief, and three other gentlemen, whom he named, to be of the Council. As we had received no previous information from Lord Pigot of this deſign, and had not ourſelves the moſt diſtant idea that ſuch a plan would ever be recommended to the Board, we expreſſed our ſurprize at the ſudden manner in which it had been introduced, and requeſted Lord Pigot would not deſire us to come to an haſty deciſion, but permit us to conſider the ſubject well before we gave our opinions. His Lordſhip, notwithſtanding, preſſed us in the ſtrongeſt manner for an immediate determination; and there appearing to us no other means of avoiding it than by a previous queſtion, Sir Robert Fletcher made a motion to that effect; but Lord Pigot, contrary to all rule, would not ſuffer it to be put, ſtill urging us to give an opinion upon his propoſal. At length an expedient was found out to relieve us. Mr. Dawſon had, before this time, been excuſed attending Council on account of his health, and the preparations he was making for his voyage to Europe, but at the particular requeſt of the Preſident he came to the Board on that day. Lord Pigot obſerved, that conſidering Mr. Dawſon's ſituation, he could not with any propriety deſire his attendance again; and mentioned this as one reaſon why he wiſhed us to come to an immediate deciſion. Mr. Dawſon thereupon expreſſing his readineſs to attend the Board at any future time that might be appointed for taking the Preſident's propoſal into conſideration, we were by this means only enabled to gain a reſpite of a few days.

29. On

29. On the 8th July the matter was again brought before us, and Mr. Dawſon again attended for this purpoſe only. The Preſident put the queſtion for the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore, which was thrown out by a majority. He then moved, that Mr. Ruſſell might be appointed Reſident at Tanjore, and carried the queſtion by his caſting voice.

30. For the opinions of the ſeveral members on theſe queſtions we beg leave to refer to our minutes.

31. Your Honours, on reading this part of our proceedings, will no doubt particularly notice the great impropriety and indecency of Lord Pigot's conduct, in urging the Council to decide upon matters of ſuch great importance, without allowing them any time to conſider and reflect upon the conſequences. A procedure of this kind, if authoriſed and encouraged, would deſtroy every purpoſe of a Council, which is inſtituted expreſsly to deliberate with care and attention upon every meaſure that is propoſed; had not an expedient, which proved convenient to his Lordſhip, been found out to relieve us, one of theſe alternatives would have happened; either we muſt have been forced to give our opinions totally unprepared, or we muſt have ſat at the Council Board until we had made ourſelves maſters of the ſubject; which, conſidering it's importance, and the neceſſity of referring to records, could not be in leſs than two or three days; or, laſtly, we muſt have endeavoured to compel his Lordſhip to give us time, and that could not have been done without proceeding to the laſt extremities, ſince he had refuſed poſitively to put a previous queſtion, or to liſten to any propoſal for an adjournment. The ſituation to which we were reduced was very diſtreſſing; and we mention our conduct in this inſtance as a ſtrong proof, amongſt many others, of our forbearance and moderation towards Lord Pigot.

32. The propoſed appointment of a Chief and Council, and in failure of that, a Reſident at Tanjore, upon which Lord Pigot required

ſo

ſo haſty an opinion from us, has fallen under the particular notice of the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, as you will perceive by the late letter from them, to which we have referred in our addreſs from the Military department. In that letter the opinions of the Governor and Council unanimouſly confirm the propriety of the reaſons urged for oppoſing the meaſure.

Military department, 26th Auguſt.

33. Mr. Charles Mordaunt, one of your civil ſervants, having upon the arreſt of Lord Pigot written a letter, wherein he refuſed to acknowledge the preſent Government, we were under the neceſſity of ſuſpending him from the Company's ſervice until your pleaſure be known.

29th Auguſt.

34. Your Honours will find in our conſultations from the other department a letter addreſſed to us by thirty-eight of your civil ſervants at the Preſidency, declaring their ſentiments on the late act by which Lord Pigot was put in arreſt, and diveſted of the office of Preſident of the Council; they take upon themſelves in this letter to deny the legality of the g vernment, to cenſure and proteſt againſt our proceedings; nevertheleſs they make a *voluntary offer* of their ſervices to us in their ſeveral ſtations until your pleaſure can be ſignified upon our conduct.

35. We confeſs it was a matter of ſome ſurprize to us to obſerve our proceedings arraigned in terms ſo diſreſpectful by any of your ſervants; but our ſurprize was much increaſed, when, upon reference to the liſt, we found that the greateſt part of the gentlemen who ſubſcribed this remonſtrance were very young ſervants of the Company.

36. In whatever light our conduct might have appeared to theſe Gentlemen, we did imagine their duty to you would have induced them to reſpect our authority, and to obey our orders with chearfulneſs and alacrity; particularly at this time, when a zealous and firm union amongſt the ſervants of the Company becomes ſo neceſſary to remove the effects of thoſe violent proceedings by which the conſtitution of the government

government was deſtroyed, and the whole powers of the Company aſſumed by a ſingle perſon.

37. Your Honours will no doubt remark how exceedingly improper it is in any of your junior ſervants to condemn, cenſure, and proteſt againſt any act of their ſuperiors in which they are not concerned, and for which they are no ways reſponſible; ſuch conduct can only tend by ill example, to deſtroy all ſubordination, and produce infinite difficulties in the management of your affairs; and you will accordingly find in the inſtance before us, that it has had this effect in a great degree already.

38. A few days after the remonſtrance was delivered in, the Preſident received an official letter from Mr. Robert Duncan Munro, one of the gentlemen who had ſigned it, which was addreſſed in the following words: "*To Mr. George Stratton, who ſtiles himſelf Preſident of the Council and Governor of Fort St. George.*" The Preſident conſidering this ſtep as raſh and ill-adviſed, took great pains, by means of Mr. Munro's friends, to make him ſenſible of the impropriety of his conduct; but he ſtill perſiſted he was right, and would not alter the form of the addreſs. 13th Sept.

39. The mode of proceeding which you have laid down for the trial of offences committed by your ſervants, is to furniſh them with a copy of the charge againſt them in writing, and to give them a reaſonable time to anſwer it; but this can only be obſerved in caſes where the party may deny the accuſation, and make it neceſſary to produce proof. In the preſent inſtance the fact was acknowledged and avowed by the party himſelf, no further proof was required; and Mr. Munro having had a reaſonable time given him to repair his fault, if he had thought proper, was certainly treated with all the tenderneſs and circumſpection which your orders ſo ſtrongly enjoin.

40. The offence committed by Mr. Munro was of ſuch a nature as to require exemplary puniſhment. He was the firſt amongſt thoſe who ſigned the remonſtrance that ventured openly to defy our authority. The terms of the addreſs to our Preſident were ſo highly indecent and diſreſpectful, as to add the greateſt inſult to that defiance. Under theſe circumſtances, we were of opinion that Mr. Munro was a very improper perſon to be continued in your ſervice, and accordingly reſolved that he ſhould be ſuſpended therefrom until your pleaſure could be known. He has ſince written a letter to us on the ſubject, and proteſted againſt our proceedings.

41. The next perſon who came under our notice for diſobedience of orders was Mr. Joſeph Revell, who held the office of Sub-Secretary of the civil department and Clerk of the Peace. We had judged it expedient to appoint this gentleman to be an aſſiſtant at Vizagapatam. He wrote a letter in conſequence to the Secretary, remonſtrating in very improper terms againſt the appointment, and obſerving that he hoped not to be removed from the office of Sub-Secretary without a good cauſe ſhewn, and a reaſonable time given him to clear himſelf before a legal tribunal if accuſed; and that with reſpect to the office of Clerk of the Peace, as he was totally reſponſible to that legal authority which is conſtituted by his Majeſty's Charter, ſo it was his intention not to reſign, if indeed there were regular means of his doing ſo, as he thought there were not, before the quarterly meeting of that *legal court* by the authority of which he was appointed. For further particulars we beg leave to refer to the letter itſelf.

42. Being reſolved to proceed with as much moderation as poſſible towards thoſe gentlemen who thought proper to treat us with ſo little reſpect, hoping thereby to convince them of their error, and to bring them back to a ſenſe of their duty, the only notice we took of this extraordinary letter from Mr. Revell was to repeat our orders for his proceeding to Vizagapatam; and to prevent any improper delay, we

limited his departure to a certain day. In conſequence he wrote a letter to our Secretary, obſerving, as he had done before, that he held the office of Clerk of the Peace by virtue of a power delegated by the Royal Charter; that he could not reſign the charge of it to any perſon, without running the riſk of a breach of office and duty in a ſtation of the firſt importance to the community, and thereby expoſe himſelf to ſhame and puniſhment. At the ſame time he wrote a letter to the gentleman whom we had appointed to receive from him the charge of that office, informing him that he was unwilling to reſign it, and that he ſhould hold him, or any man who dared uſurp it, amenable to the laws of his country.

43. Still unwilling to take that laſt ſtep to which Mr. Revell by his conduct ſeemed deſirous of compelling us, we gave him another opportunity of returning to his duty. He did not however think proper to accept it, and repeating a ſecond time that he could not leave Madras, we were reduced to the neceſſity of ſuſpending him from the ſervice for a diſobedience of our orders.

44. Before we quit this ſubject we ſhall beg leave to make a few obſervations. Mr. Revell held the offices of Sub-Secretary and Clerk of the Peace by the appointment of the Preſident and Council, according to the uſual form. As a ſervant of the Company the Preſident and Council may ſurely employ him as they think proper, and for their conduct in this reſpect they are only reſponſible to you. Almoſt all your ſervants hold offices and employs, and if we are not at liberty to remove any of them upon other ſervices, which may be more for your intereſt and advantage, though perhaps diſagreeable to them, without explaining to them our reaſons for ſo doing, we are likely to have a great deal of unneceſſary employment upon our hands, and very little benefit from their ſervices.

45. We do not mean to make any further examples of the ſame ſeverity, if we can poſſibly avoid it; and we doubt not, after this great mark of our lenity, that any attempt to inſult our authority, or to impede us in the adminiſtration of your affairs, will meet with your ſtrongeſt diſapprobation and diſpleaſure.

46. We think it neceſſary to inform you, that Mr. William Harcourt Torriano, whoſe name is ſigned to the remonſtrance from the junior ſervants, wrote a letter on the day it was delivered in, informing us that he had been too haſty in ſigning it; that he had endeavoured to withdraw his name before the paper was delivered, but not being permitted to do it, he now requeſted it might be eraſed, and we have complied with his deſire accordingly.

Extract of General Letter from George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Eſquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Fourdan, and George Mackay, Eſquires, dated Fort St. George, 21ſt September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, the 2d of April, 1777.

Revenue department.

Honourable,

1. IN your ſeparate letter by the Grenville, dated the 12th April, 1775, you were pleaſed to direct, that "So ſoon as affairs reſpecting "Tanjore ſhall have been accommodated and finally adjuſted, a Com- "mittee of your Council, conſiſting of five members, be appointed to "make the Circuit of the northern Circars" for the purpoſes therein explained.

2. Your Honours will naturally imagine, that very little difficulty could have occurred in carrying theſe orders into execution; yet we may ſafely affirm, that we never before experienced ſo much debate and oppoſition upon any one ſingle point, as we did upon the period which ſhould be fixed for the departure of the Committee of Circuit.

3. On

3. On reference to our minutes on this ſubject, you will perceive that we wiſhed the Committee to proceed upon the Circuit early, in compliance with the evident intention of your orders. Mr. Stratton, in the month of May laſt, delivered in a minute propoſing their immediate departure, but withdrew it at the requeſt of Lord Pigot, who was deſirous of waiting the arrival of the ſecond ſhip of the ſeaſon from England before any ſteps were taken relative to the Circuit. Sir Robert Fletcher entered a minute on the ſame ſubject the 28th of June, and ſeveral other attempts were afterwards made to bring this ſubject again into diſcuſſion, but his Lordſhip continually waved it under ſome pretence or other. At length finding that he was reſolved to delay the execution of your orders as long as poſſible, Mr. Jourdan formally moved, in Conſultation the 26th July, that the Committee ſhould be immediately ſent upon the Circuit. The queſtion was put, and carried for the motion; and, at a ſubſequent meeting, the time of their departure was ſet down for the 15th Auguſt.

4. Lord Pigot's views then openly appeared. From the 26th of July until the 5th of Auguſt no means were left untried to induce us to change our reſolution. His Lordſhip pointed out other objects which he ſaid were of more importance than the buſineſs of the Circuit. Meſſieurs Ruſſell and Dalrymple, whom your Honours had appointed members of the Committee, declared themſelves injured by having a day fixed for their departure, and remonſtrated againſt it. In ſhort, every obſtacle that could be thought of was thrown in our way by Lord Pigot and theſe gentlemen, purpoſely to evade the execution of your poſitive orders by poſtponing the departure of the Committee.

5. Mr. Ruſſell, in a letter addreſſed to the Board on this occaſion, makes uſe of the following paſſage: "The Board, when fuller than at "preſent, did me the honour of appointing me Reſident at Tanjore, to "ſettle the buſineſs there, and quiet the alarms in the Rajah's mind, be-"fore my ſervices on the Circuit ſhould be called upon; and I ſhould

 "hope

" hope they would not now fruſtrate that appointment, as I cannot but
" think it a highly neceſſary one; it being well known, that the Nabob's
" Sons took great pains, and made large offers to Mr. Dawſon, to pre-
" vent the appointment taking place, and even now are indefatigable in
" their *nocturnal* viſits."

6. Here for the firſt time appeared the real cauſe of all the oppoſition which had been made to the departure of the Committee of Circuit. Mr. Ruſſell, by the Preſident's caſting voice, was, in Conſultation the 8th July, appointed Reſident at Tanjore, Mr. Dawſon attending, and giving his voice for the appointment, although at his requeſt he had been before exempted from all duty at the Board. When this reſolution paſſed, it was declared and underſtood by every member, that the appointment of Mr. Ruſſell was not intended to prevent his proceeding upon the Circuit, whenever it might be determined that the Committee ſhould ſet out. Mr. Ruſſell, after his nomination, remained here near a month, apparently without any cauſe; but when the buſineſs of the Circuit was in agitation, he then claims his appointment of Reſident at Tanjore, a ſervice, which (if it were at all neceſſary) might as well have been executed by any other perſon; and this evidently with a view to evade his duty as a member of the Committee of Circuit, an appointment expreſsly conferred on him by a poſitive order of his employers. Lord Pigot preſſed Mr. Ruſſell's going to Tanjore, with an eagerneſs and anxiety ſtill greater than Mr. Ruſſell himſelf had ſhewn, and proceeded ſo far as to requeſt it repeatedly at the Board, were it only for a few days, a circumſtance particularly deſerving your notice.

7. When Mr. Ruſſell found that he could not be permitted to go to Tanjore, inſtead of ſhewing that ready compliance which is due from every ſervant of the Company to the reſolutions of the Board, particularly when they are founded in your poſitive commands, he declared he could not be prepared to proceed on the Circuit before the 1ſt of October, which was ſix weeks after the period fixt by the Board for the departure

parture of the Committee, although he then held the important office of Preſident of that Committee; Mr. Dalrymple alſo pleaded for more time; but the Board, ſeeing no end to the wilful delay of theſe gentlemen, and the neceſſity of diſpatch becoming every day more urgent, it was at length reſolved that they ſhould leave the Preſidency on the 31ſt of Auguſt.

8. Mr. Dawſon, whom your Honours were pleaſed to name upon the Committee of Circuit, having obtained leave from us to go home, and Mr. Mackay, another member of your nomination, having, upon his application, been excuſed this duty by the unanimous conſent of the Board, on account of his age, which renders him unable to perform a ſervice of ſo much fatigue, we were under ſome difficulty in filling up the two vacancies. Upon this occaſion, Mr. Floyer, though he had been appointed by you Chief of Mazulipatam, chearfully offered his ſervices in the room of Mr. Dawſon; and Mr. Lathom, the Chief of Cuddalore, was appointed in the room of Mr. Mackay.

9. Thus, after encountering every ſpecies of oppoſition that could be formed againſt the execution of your orders relative to the Circuit, we at length ſucceeded.—We beg your Honours will be referred to our minutes for the particulars. Conſultat. 26th, 29th July, 1ſt, 2d, 5th, 9th, 16th Auguſt.

10. Having taken meaſures for putting the buſineſs of the Circuit in proper train, the firſt thing that came under our notice was the paſſage in Mr. Ruſſell's letter before quoted, wherein he aſſerts, that the Nabob's Sons took great pains, and made large offers to Mr. Dawſon, to prevent his (Mr. Ruſſell's) appointment to Tanjore, and were ſtill indefatigable in their nocturnal viſits.

11. This paſſage, although very obſcure, appeared to convey ſome kind of inſinuation that was neceſſary to be explained. We knew not of any offers that had been made to Mr. Dawſon; and if there were any,

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it was his duty to have mentioned them to the Board before his departure. As to the reſt, we propoſed calling upon Mr. Ruſſell for an explanation; but, before we could do this, Lord Pigot moved a queſtion, which we think will appear to your Honours the moſt extraordinary that ever was entered upon record; it was in theſe words: "That "if upon enquiry it ſhould appear, that the *nocturnal viſits* mentioned "in Mr. Ruſſell's letter to be made by the Nabob's Sons, be to mem-"bers of the Board, ſuch members be ſuſpended from the Company's "ſervice until their pleaſure be known."

12. This queſtion was thrown out by a majority of eight to three. The attempt however to paſs an order to condemn men unknown, unheard, and even before any charge was produced againſt them, betrays principles of the moſt arbitrary kind. His Lordſhip, it is true, pretends that his motion was founded on a reſolution which had paſſed ſome time before, to prevent members of the Board from viſiting or receiving viſits from the Nabob or his family; but this reſolution having been cauſed by a miſrepreſentation from the Preſident reſpecting the ſtanding orders of the Company, was afterwards reſcinded by a majority of the Board, and could not therefore afford the leaſt ground for the motion.

13. It is with great reluctance that we employ your time upon ſuch irkſome and diſagreeable ſubjects. We ſhall only obſerve further, that when we called upon Mr. Ruſſell to explain the remark in his letter, that the Nabob's Sons were ſtill *indefatigable in their nocturnal viſits*, Lord Pigot immediately obſerved, that Mr. Ruſſell had received that information from himſelf; that what he meant by *nocturnal viſits* was, viſits made after ſun-ſet; but as he had failed in his motion, to bring the puniſhment home, he ſhould conceal the names of the offenders until another opportunity. To thoſe who are not well acquainted with the cuſtoms of this country, the term *nocturnal viſits*, as applied by his Lordſhip, might poſſibly convey an idea, that ſuch viſits from any of the Nabob's family to members of the Board are improper; but when it is underſtood, that amongſt the Moors of diſtinction

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the only time of making complimentary viſits is after ſunſet: the attempt to affix any idea of criminality to viſits of this kind appears very unbecoming and injurious.

14. Your Honors will, we conceive, be no leſs aſtoniſhed than concerned to ſee the Preſident and another Member of your Council interrupting buſineſs of real importance to your intereſts, by frivolous and unjuſt attempts to traduce the characters of thoſe who are acting in diſcharge of their duty, and are at the very time endeavouring, in oppoſition to thoſe gentlemen, to carry into execution your poſitive orders. Had Lord Pigot or Mr. Ruſſell been able to produce any real charge, it is difficult to imagine upon this occaſion they would have concealed it; but the manner in which the attack was made, is the cleareſt proof that it was without any kind of foundation. No man charges by inſinuation who can ſupport what he advances. In the preſent caſe the attempt was to convey the idea of a charge only; and to proceed immediately from this to a vote of condemnation, is certainly an act of cruelty and injuſtice ſcarcely to be paralleled.

15. Meſſieurs Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Lathom, Members of the Committee of Circuit, having been ſuſpended from the Company's ſervice, as you will be adviſed from the military department, we were unable to fill up theſe vacancies from the Council, and ſtill leave a ſufficient number to tranſact your affairs at the Preſidency. For this reaſon we have ſelected three ſenior ſervants of the Company under Council, Meſſieurs Peter Perring, James Daniel, and Quintin Craufurd, who, in conjunction with Mr. Johnſon and Mr. Floyer, two Members of the Council, now compoſe the Committee of Circuit. We have prepared ſuch inſtructions as appear to us neceſſary for their guidance. Meſſieurs Johnſon, Perring, Daniel, and Craufurd will proceed on the Circuit immediately, but we have permitted Mr. Floyer to go firſt to Maſulipatam, where he has been appointed Chief, and to remain there as long as he ſhall think neceſſary to acquire ſufficient information reſpecting the affairs of that Chiefſhip.

Extract of Letter from the Governor-General and Council at Fort William, in their Secret Department, to the Court of Directors, dated 22d Auguſt 1776; received per Syren, the 26th April 1777.

Par. 12. WE are ſorry to acquaint you, that we have been again under the neceſſity of exerciſing the controlling powers belonging to this Govern-

ment, in reſtraining and rectifying ſome irregularities in the Government of Madraſs, but more particularly in the conduct of my Lord Pigot towards the Nabob of the Carnatic. In the month of May laſt the Nabob wrote to us a very affecting letter, complaining amongſt other things that Lord Pigot had ſent a detachment of the Company's troops to arreſt Narroo Pundit, the Dobbeer, his ſervant, in the town of Arialoor. As that place is ſituated far without the diſtrict of Tanjore, and within that of Trichinopoly, we could not help conſidering the fact, if proved, as a violation of the peace of the Carnatic, unleſs it had been committed by miſtake, or that it was abſolutely neceſſary for the execution of your commands: we thereupon wrote to the Council at Madraſs, to direct them to ſend us all their proceedings relative to the reſtoration of the Rajah of Tanjore; theſe having been tranſmitted to us, together with ſeveral other Letters and papers from the Nabob of Arcot, we took them into our ſerious conſideration, and unanimouſly agreed to the Reſolutions which were ſent to Madraſs, accompanying our Letter of the 7th inſtant; they apply beſides the act of hoſtility committed at Arialoor, to ſeveral other references ſince received from the Nabob, whereby it appeared that his honor, his dignity, and his independence, had been greatly injured without any neceſſity or provocation whatever.

13. Theſe Reſolutions have been formed as near as poſſible to the ſyſtem which we obſerve, from the peruſal of all your Letters and orders to the Preſidency of Madraſs, you have had in view for maintaining a good intelligence with the Nabob, and more particularly for preſerving to him thoſe dependent rights inherent in him as ſovereign of the Carnatic, which we find ſo fully expreſſed in the 31ſt and 32d paragraphs of your General Letter to the Commiſſioners, dated 23d March 1770, viz.

Par. 31. "When we reflect on the long experience we have had of Mahomed Aly's faithful attachment to the Engliſh Company, we are ſurprized at the idea entertained by the Governor and Council in their Letters of the 8th March and 27th June 1769, to reduce him to a mere nominal Nabob."

32. "The ſanction of the treaty of Paris, by which treaty public faith became the guarantee of the Nabob's title, will be of little uſe to him, if notorious infringements of the rights and powers uſually inherent in and dependent on ſuch title, ſhould be by us countenanced and permitted to take place."

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14. We tranſmit you a copy of all our Proceedings on theſe ſubjects, which goes a number in the packet.

Extract of Letter from the Governor-General and Council at Fort William, in their Secret Department, dated the 12th September 1776; received per Syren, the 26th April 1777.

Par. 37. WE beg leave to refer you to our Letter of the 22d ultimo, and to the copies of our Proceedings which accompanied it, for our Reſolutions and Directions to the Preſident and Council at Fort St. George, on the improper and unwarranted conduct of the Right Honorable the Preſident towards the Nabob.

38. When the Nabob of the Carnatic made his formal appeal to this Government againſt the violent and hoſtile acts of Lord Pigot, you will find that we unanimouſly declared them, after the moſt complete inveſtigation of the Proceedings of the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George, to be contrary to the Act of Parliament, by which the Company's Preſidencies in India are prohibited from making orders for commencing hoſtilities againſt any of the Princes of India, without our conſent and approbation. Here we ſtopped. Having eſtabliſhed the offence, the obvious concluſion to be drawn from our declaration was, that we might, in caſe our Orders and Reſolutions ſhould be attended with no effect, proceed to the exerciſe of the controlling powers veſted in us, and of courſe to pronounce the ſentence of ſuſpenſion againſt the Preſident; at the ſame time we hoped that this harſh and ſevere meaſure would be unneceſſary, as a large Majority of the Council at Fort St. George had united to oppoſe the meaſures which we had condemned, and we relied on their ſupport for carrying our orders into execution. We contented ourſelves therefore with laying down a rule to be obſerved by the Preſident and Council in all their tranſactions with the Nabob, knowing that it was in the power of the Majority to abide by and enforce it, in virtue of the regular means which they poſſeſſed to govern the affairs of that Adminiſtration; but, to our great aſtoniſhment and alarm, we were informed, in a ſeparate Letter addreſſed to us by the Majority, conſiſting of ſeven Members of the Council, that Lord Pigot had by artifice and violence attempted to exclude their two ſenior Members from the Government, in order to obtain a forced Majority in his favour; that they had therefore been compelled to proteſt againſt him, and three other Members who joined with him, and to ſeparate themſelves from that part of the Council. 10th Sept.

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39. A few days after we received a Letter from Lord Pigot acquainting us, that having found it neceſſary to put Sir Robert Fletcher into arreſt for circulating ſeditious papers in the Garriſon, (which papers we ſuppoſe to have been the proteſt) Colonel Stuart was appointed to command the army; and that his Lordſhip had been made a priſoner by Colonel Edington, through the means of Colonel Stuart, and carried in confinement to the Mount, where he was placed under the charge of Major Horne. That a day or two after, a party of ſoldiers, under the command of Colonel Edington, had been ſent to remove his Lordſhip from the Mount, but he had reſolved not to ſubmit to it; and that Commodore Sir Edward Hughes having gone to pay him a viſit, he had claimed the protection of his Majeſty's flag; and Sir Edward Hughes had promiſed to receive him on board the Saliſbury, if permiſſion could be obtained for that purpoſe.

40. Alarmed and concerned, as we muſt be, to ſee the Government of Madraſs in diſpute between the two contending parties in the Council, and in danger of falling into anarchy between them both, we find ourſelves under the diſagreeable neceſſity of taking a firm and decided part in their diviſions; and though the Majority have not yet informed us of all the circumſtances which compelled them after their ſeparation to aſſume the Government, and to throw their late Preſident into confinement, yet the rights and powers of your Governments in India, being, by the original conſtitution of them, veſted and eſtabliſhed in the Majority of the Council, we thought it incumbent on us to acknowledge them as the legal adminiſtration of the Preſidency of Fort St. George, and to offer them our aſſiſtance in ſupport of their authority. To remove any doubts which either party may entertain of the powers of a Majority of the Council, we have ſent them copies of your late orders to this Preſidency, contained in the 17th, 18th, and 19th paragraphs of your Letter per Lioneſs, dated 31ſt January laſt.

Extract

Extract of Secret Conſultations, Fort William, 7th Auguſt 1776; received per Grenville the 25th of April 1777.

RECONSIDERED the proceedings of the Right Honorable the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George, on the ſubject of the repreſentations from the Nabob of Arcot, which the Board concluded reading the 31ſt ultimo. Secret department.

The Governor-General delivers in the following Minute on the ſubject.

FOR the clearer underſtanding of the Nabob's complaints, I have extracted them from the ſeveral Letters which he has lately written to this Government, and formed them into the following diſtinct articles.

1ſt. That an Engliſh officer, at the head of ſixty troopers and a party of Seapoys, by Lord Pigot's order, entered the town of Arialoor, belonging to the Government of the Carnatic, ſurrounded the houſe occupied by Narroo Pundit, Dobbeer, a principal ſervant of the Nabob, and by other ſervants of the Nabob, forced away the Seapoys whom he had ſtationed with them as a guard, ſeized and carried them priſoners, with all the Nabob's papers which were in their charge, public and private, to Tanjore to Lord Pigot.

2d. That Lord Pigot cauſed the lands which had been aſſigned for payment of the Nabob's troops ſtationed in Tanjore to be taken from the charge of his agents, in breach of a promiſe made and repeated by Lord Pigot in perſon to the Nabob, that the aſſignment ſhould be continued for the purpoſe of diſcharging the arrears of pay due to the ſaid troops.

3d. That Lord Pigot cauſed other aſſignments of the grain and revenues of Tanjore, which had been mortgaged by the Nabob for payment of debts contracted in the reduction of Tanjore, and for the ſervice of the country after the reduction of it, to be taken from his creditors.

4th. That Lord Pigot cauſed a "Proclamation to be made in the "fort, and through all the diſtricts of Tanjore, that no one ſhould "give protection or rice to any of the Nabob's people, but bring them "forth; and even that if any perſon gave ſhelter to any of the Nabob's "ſervants, he ſhould be conſidered as criminal."

5th. That the moſt creditable and ancient ſervants of the Nabob, who were at Tanjore, were treated with great indignities by the dependants of Lord Pigot, and ſome of them detained in priſon by the Rajah, even ſo late as the month of May laſt.

6th. That Lord Pigot ſent people at midnight to ſeize and carry aw ſome of the Nabob's Reiats from the door of his houſe.

7th. That Lord Pigot threatened the Nabob, that he would place a guard of ſoldiers at his door, and uſed other violent and menacing language to the Nabob, in the preſence of the Nabob's brother, his ſons, and of his whole court.

8th. That an Engliſh officer with a company of Seapoys, by order of Lord Pigot, entered the countries of Ramnaut and Shew-Ganga, belonging to the Nabob, and took forcible poſſeſſion of certain diſtricts in both, under pretence that they belonged to Tanjore.

9th. That a party of Seapoys forcibly entered the Kella of Woodiarpollam, belonging to the Nabob, with orders from Lord Pigot to ſeize Mahomed Hebraz Khan, a principal ſervant of the Nabob, but that miſſing him they ſearched all the houſes, and carried away and ill-treated many of the inhabitants.

Obſervations on the above Charges.

‖Vid. Nabob's Letter to the Governor-General and Council, No. 1. 2. 3.

1ſt. This the Nabob complains of, as an act unbecoming even towards an enemy; a degradation of his character in the eyes of the world; a hoſtile invaſion of his country; a violation of friendſhip and faith; derogatory from the honor of the Company; contrary to the guarantee by which the Engliſh Nation is bound to him; irreconcilable with his right as an ally to the King of Great Britain, and productive of diſtruſt in his ſubjects, and anarchy in his government.

Vide Nabob's Letter to Mr. Stratton, dated 22d April, and entered in Conſultation the 24th April, p. 55.

Lord Pigot's account of this affair, and his motives, may be collected from the following paſſages in his Diary, his Letter to the Nabob, and the General Letter of the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George to this Board.

‖ Bengal Country Correſpoudence is not come to hand.

Extract

Extract from the Diary of Lord Pigot, Conſultation, 13th May.

" Gave Captain Tonyn orders to proceed with the troop to Vickerum " to eſcort the Dobbeer hither."

Extract of a Letter from Lord Pigot to the Nabob, entered in Conſultation 13th May.

" I am ſorry to obſerve to you, that I found, as I paſſed through the " country, the proper officers, with all the accounts, had been removed by " your orders from every village, and I was ſoon informed that every " part of the country was in the ſame ſituation; every means had been " taken to throw difficulties in my way in the execution of the Company's " orders, and to diſtreſs the country and inhabitants. In this ſituation " I thought it the propereſt method to eſcort the Dobbeer here by the " Company's troop of cavalry."

Extract of a Letter from Lord Pigot to the Nabob, entered in Conſultation 13th May.

" Your ſon Ameer-ul-Omrah, perhaps forgot to inform you, that " Nurroo Pundit, the Dobbeer, after Tanjore was taken, told your ſon " he would not deſert his maſter in his misfortunes, and refuſed to act " until he carried him to the Rajah, and deſired him to lay his commands " upon him. Was it noble? was it generous? was it honorable? was it " juſt, to impriſon this venerable old man, between ſeventy and eighty " years of age; this public officer, this firſt officer of the Tanjore reve- " nue; this officer of the public, not your Highneſs's ſervant?"

Extract of a Letter from the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George to the Governor-General and Council, dated the 13th June.

" Our Preſident acquaints us, that as he paſſed through the Tanjore " country, he found the proper officers with all the accounts had been " removed by the Nabob's orders from the villages, and was ſoon in- " formed that every part of the country was in the ſame ſituation; that " every means had been taken to throw difficulties in his way in the " execution of the Company's orders, and to diſtreſs the country and " inhabitants; that without the aſſiſtance of the Dobbeer and his accounts " it would have been impoſſible for the Rajah to have obtained any " knowledge

" knowledge of the Revenues, or indeed to have been properly placed " in the management of his country: this man having been firſt mi- " niſter, and in fact governed the Tanjore country for theſe fifty years " paſt. That after Tanjore was taken, he told the Nabob's ſon, " who commanded there for his father, that he would not deſert his " maſter in his misfortunes, and refuſed to act until he carried him to " the Rajah, and deſired the Rajah, to lay his commands upon him. " That on his (the Preſident's) proceeding to Tanjore, the Nabob ordered " the Dobbeer to be ſent out of the Tanjore country with all the public " accounts; that the Dobbeer had retarded his journey by various pre- " tences, and ſent a meſſage to the Rajah, deſiring that he might be con- " ducted to Tanjore: the troop which attended the Preſident was there- " fore ſent to eſcort him, but when the troop arrived at the place whence " the meſſage to the Rajah had been ſent, they found the Dobbeer had " been conveyed from thence to Arialoor, whither the commanding " officer of the troop followed, and eſcorted him to Tanjore."

The ſum of the above extract is, that Lord Pigot did cauſe the Dobbeer to be arreſted by a military force, and brought by force to Tanjore; for this is certainly implied by the expreſſion "eſcorted," ſo frequently repeated by Lord Pigot in his explanation of this tranſaction. The reaſons aſſigned for it are, 1ſt. That the Dobbeer had carried off with him all the accounts of the revenue of Tanjore, which it was neceſſary to recover for the ſecurity of the collections, and for the re-eſtabliſhment of the Rajah's Government; and 2dly. That the Nabob had compelled the Dobbeer to engage in his ſervice contrary to his own inclination, and to the fidelity which he owed to his late maſter. In oppoſition to the firſt of theſe reaſons, it is affirmed by Mr. Benfield and Mr. De Souza, that the only accounts which the Dobbeer carried away with him were the general accounts, kept in the Perſian and Maratta languages, and correſponding with thoſe which are called Sudder Accounts in this country; but that all the accounts of the collections which regard the detail, the Moffuſſul accounts remained in the hands of the inferior officers of the collections in each village and diſtrict. The teſtimony of theſe perſons, from the intereſt which they appear to have had in the ſubject, might been liable to objections; but it remains indiſputed, and its exact agreement with the practice and uſage of our provinces is a ſtrong preſumption of its truth. The ſecond reaſon alledged in juſtification of the ſeizure of the Dobbeer, namely, that he had been forced to accept the Nabob's ſervice, though at beſt it is but a recrimination, and by no means an excuſe for the violence uſed in his releaſe, refutes itſelf by the ſtrange inconſiſtency of compelling a man to accept

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the moſt reſponſible and lucrative truſt in the country, which it concerned the Nabob's intereſt to beſtow on a man on whoſe integrity and devotion he could rely (for his ability, without theſe qualifications, would rather be an objection to his being employed in it) and which the firſt man in the Carnatic would have accepted with thankfulneſs. If this is inſufficient, the fact aſſerted by the Nabob, that the Dobbeer was a priſoner in Tanjore when it was taken by him, and releaſed by his authority, and the Letters of the Dobbeer to the Nabob, which bear the moſt evident marks of authenticity, put the matter beyond all doubt that the Dobbeer was voluntarily engaged in the Nabob's ſervice, and actually in his ſervice, when Lord Pigot iſſued the orders for arreſting him.

Upon the whole I think it is clearly proved, that in this inſtance the conduct of Lord Pigot is contrary to the Act of Parliament, which declares, that, "It ſhall not be lawful for the Preſident and Council of Ma-"draſs to make any orders for commencing hoſtilities againſt any Indian "prince or power, without the conſent and approbation of the Governor-"General and Council firſt had and obtained, except in ſuch caſes of "imminent neceſſity, as would render it dangerous to poſtpone ſuch hoſ-"tilies, &c. and except in ſuch caſes, where the ſaid Preſident and Coun-"cil ſhall have received ſpecial orders from the United Eaſt-India Com-"pany;" and it may be added, that it is equally contrary to the rights of the Nabob, which the Company, in their orders under which Lord Pigot profeſſedly acted, expreſsly direct to be maintained, and to the national faith, pledged by the alliance ſubſiſting between the Nabob and the Company.

2, 3. The ſecond and third Articles, although the debates upon them occupy a great portion of the Minutes of the Council of Fort St. George, yet do not, in my apprehenſion of the Act of Parliament, fall within the controlling powers veſted by it in this Government; neither are we furniſhed with materials by which we can be competent judges of the points in diſpute.

4. This charge is extracted from the Nabob's Letter to Lord Pigot dated 29th April, and entered in Conſultation the 13th May. No reply is made to it in any of the ſubſequent Letters of Lord Pigot to the Nabob, nor is any further notice taken of it on the Proceedings.

It will reſt with the Board to determine whether they will take up the charge, or conſider it as not yet properly before them for want of proof, or

whether the ſilence of Lord Pigot on ſuch an occaſion is to be deemed an acknowledgment of it. The fact itſelf, if admitted, certainly amounts to a declaration of the moſt hoſtile kind againſt the Nabob, and demanded his Lordſhip's reply, if it was either falſely related, or could be juſtified by any circumſtances attending it, eſpecially as it was to be tranſmitted with the other Records of the Preſidency of Fort St. George, for the expreſs purpoſe of informing this Board of the manner in which the Company's orders had been carried into execution, and for its judgment thereon.

5. This charge appears in the following Extracts of the Nabob's Letter viz.

Extract of a Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 29th April, and entered in Conſultation 13th May.

" AND my managers, perſons of conſiderations as above-mentioned, " purſuant to the orders I gave them, made no oppoſition to the people " ſent by you; notwithſtanding which, ſingle guards of your people " treated my principal managers, in the face of my numerous army, with " more diſhonor and diſgrace than even an enemy is ſubject to, and, after " confining them with indignity, ſeized their papers."

Extract of a Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 6th July, and entered in Conſultation 12th July.

" I HAVE full reliance on the equity of your maſters, and am perſuaded that inſtead of being pleaſed, they will be uneaſy at hearing of " theſe affairs; that they will not approve of my being made to ſuſtain " ſuch heavy loſſes, and that they will place no dependence upon accounts, " which by violence and oppreſſion, and keeping my clerks and managers under confinement, you have cauſed them to make out according to your own dictates."

From the ſame to the ſame.

" YOUR people, in conjunction with Tuljaujee, behaved in ſuch a " manner to my principal officers and ſervants, ſome of whom, from " father to ſon, had been for years in the ſervice of my family, and all " of whom were gentlemen and perſons of diſtinction, that it was impoſſi-

" ble

" ble for them to have gone through greater diſgrace, diſhonor, or igno
" miny. Some of my ſervants are even to this day in confinement unde
" the authority of Tuljaujee, and the Company's people."

Both the Proofs and Anſwer to this are alſo yet wanting. It ſeems indeed to be implicitly denied by the following Motion made by Lord Pigot in Conſultation 12th July.

" The Nabob complaining in the foregoing Letter that ſome of his
" people are kept in confinement at Tanjore, the Preſident propoſes that
" a Letter be wrote the Nabob, to requeſt he will inform the Board who
" they are, that we may apply to the Rajah to procure their releaſement,
" if unjuſtly kept in that ſituation.——"

6. This charge appears in the following Extracts, viz.

Extract of a Letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes, entered in Conſultation the 3d June.

" AS Lord Pigot, on a former occaſion, ordered people to enter my
" garden in the middle of the night, pretending that he had information
" that I had ordered ſome people to be ill-treated there."

Extract from the Nabob's Letter to the Governor-General.

" Lord Pigot ſent a man to my door at midnight, and forcibly carried
" away my Reiats."

The following is Lord Pigot's account of the affair.

Extract Conſultation of the 6th June.

" On the 10th May I received the following report from the head Hir-
" carrah."

Report of the Head Hircarrah.

" After the Nabob took the Marvas country, the Circar's people
" plundered every thing belonging to the ſaid Marvas managers; among
" the

" the reſt one Vellayan Chervacar's houſe was plun dered; his daughter " remained in the ſaid country very poor."

" One Verapilla, an enemy to her, told the Nabob that ſhe was worth " money; upon which he ordered her to be brought under guard to him; " and accordingly ſhe, and two more women, and about thirteen men, " were brought to Cheſſauck, the Company's bounds, a few days ago; " but upon examining the woman, there was no money to be got from " her as was expected. On this the ſaid enemy told the Nabob, that if he " would ſend her back along with him to the ſaid country, he will put " her to torture and recover the money. The woman would not go, for " fear they will murder her; but they are forcing her to go, and ſhe de- " clares if ſhe is forced ſhe will kill herſelf. As ſhe is now in the Com- " pany's bounds, ſent to acquaint your Lordſhip with the above violence, " and beg you to ſave her life; and as it is my duty to acquaint you with " any news or violence that might be committed in the bounds, I thought " fit to make this report to your Lordſhip."

" The Preſident was upon a viſit, and at ſupper, when he received this " information; and as the Nabob's gardens and thoſe to the Company's " houſe join, he ordered the Hircarrah to wait at the gardens, till his re- " turn, and to watch if theſe people paſſed. About eleven o'clock, the Pre- " ſident ſtopping at the gardens in his way to the Fort, was informed " that the woman was not come away, but that ſome of the people were " carried off towards St. Thomè; upon which the Preſident thought pro- " per to direct the officer of the guard to ſend a Havildar and ſome Sea- " poys, who overtook them at St. Thomè; and the Preſident at the ſame " time gave to Saib, one of the Company's waiting Peons, the written in- " formation he had received, and directed him to carry it to the houſe of the " Nabob, where many of his ſervants generally are, and to deſire that the " women might not be removed till he ſaw the Nabob in the morning."

The ſubject ſcarce merited ſo long a diſcuſſion of it in this place, in the midſt of ſo many other grievances of much more importance; but as the Council of Fort St. George appear to have taken up the intimation made by the Nabob, as a formal complaint againſt Lord Pigot, I have therefore inſerted his reply.

7. The Nabob's relation of this affair is contained in the following Extract from him to Sir Edward Hughes.

" Lord

" Lord Pigot, not content with the low and diſgraceful ſtate to which " he has reduced my authority by the meaſures which he executed at Tan- " jore, has lately threatened to ſubject me to the moſt perſonal diſ- " grace."

" On the 27th inſtant, at eight o'clock in the morning, he came to my " Durbar, and in the preſence of my brother Morphewt Khan Bahadar, " and my ſons Omdah-ul-Omrah Bahadar and Aameer-ul-Omrah Bahadar, " and Keerim Moodin Khan, declared, in the moſt determined and threat- " ening tone of voice, that he would place an European guard upon my " houſe to keep me a priſoner in his power; and naming Members of the " Council, he ſaid they were raſcals, and that he would diſmiſs them " from the ſervice. He ſaid alſo, that all the white-faced fellows were raſ- " cals, and that he would not allow any of them to ſee me: alſo he aſked " Omdah-ul-Omrah and Aumeer-ul-Omrah why they did not kick out " all ſuch raſcals? The cauſe of this outrage was my having written " him a Letter on the 26th inſtant, a copy of which is encloſed, repre- " ſenting the injuſtice which he did me, by ordering a military force " to march into the Raminade country, to deprive me of ſome diſtricts " there, and putting them in poſſeſſion of Tuljaujee! Can there be any " oppreſſion equal to depriving a man of his right, and then threatening " him with the greateſt diſgrace if he dares to make a repreſentation of " that right?"

And the following is his Lordſhip's account of it.

Extract of a Letter to Sir Edward Hughes from the Preſident and Council, in Conſultation, 3d June.

" OUR Preſident aſſures us, that the Nabob has totally miſunder- " ſtood him; that he never had a thought of placing any guard over " him, although he feared, and expreſſed thoſe fears to the Nabob, that " the encouragement his Highneſs gave to European viſitors, and the " impediment to public buſineſs, ariſing from the intrigues carried on by " them at his Durbar, would lay him under a neceſſity to place a guard " to bring ſuch perſons to him, that he might be acquainted with the " nature of their buſineſs."

This explanation is an acknowledgment of the fact, although it qualifies the intent of it. However ſuch a declaration may have been expreſſed, it was certainly a great indignity to the Nabob, and if not an hoſtility in the literal ſenſe of the words of the act of Parliament, it was in its natural tendency more likely to deſtroy the friendſhip which has ſo long ſubſiſted between the Nabob and the Company than acts of overt and avowed enmity, from the deep wound given to the Nabob's honor and perſonal feelings. It was moſt undoubtedly the deſign of the Legiſlature, in inveſting this Preſidency with a controul over the reſt, to preſerve an uniformity in their political operations, and to prevent the affairs of the Company from being embarraſſed by contradictory engagements, or endangered by wars, dictated by the deſultory caprice or intereſt of individuals, who poſſeſſed the temporary rule. Every ſpecie of inſult or violence, which has a direct tendency to provoke hoſtilities againſt the Company, and ſtamp on them the reproach of having been the aggreſſors in any conſequences which might enſue, is contrary therefore to the ſpirit and intent of the act of Parliament, or the act was paſſed in vain; ſince there are a thouſand ways by which it may be alluded, without "making any orders for commencing hoſtilities, or declaring or making "war," which are the expreſs terms of the act; and if ſuch acts are generally prohibited, how much more ought they to be guarded againſt, by the utmoſt vigilance and exertion of the controlling Government, in caſes which are likely to diſſolve the connexion of the Company and of the Britiſh Nation with the firſt and firmeſt ally that they ever poſſeſſed in India.

It is true, that on this, and every other occaſion in which the Nabob has thought himſelf aggrieved, he has obſerved the moſt patient forbearance, both in his own conduct and in the orders iſſued to his officers; but this is no argument of the rectitude of the meaſures of which he complains, nor a proof that the peace of the Carnatic has not been diſturbed by them. This Board will probably think it incumbent upon them to judge of thoſe acts by their conſonancy to the act of Parliament, and by their tendency, not by their real effects.

Had the Nabob been poſſeſſed of leſs moderation, or perhaps been leſs fearful of forfeiting the alliance which long habit had cemented into a friendſhip with the Britiſh Nation, he might have retaliated the hoſtilities offered him. A war might have enſued. He might have ſought the alliance of Hyder Ally Khan, or of the Marattas, or thrown himſelf on the protection of the French; and his friendſhip, power, and influence, irrecoverably

irrecoverably loſt to the Britiſh Nation. This might have been the conſequence of ſuch provocation; the world might have approved his reſentment, and attributed to the aggreſſors the blame of having ſacrificed the faith and intereſt of the Company, the peace of the Carnatic, and the benefits reſulting from the alliance with the Prince of it, to their violence and intemperance.

8th. The particulars of this tranſaction may be collected from the following places in the Fort St. George Conſultations.

The Nabob's Letter to Mr. Stratton, in Conſultation, 29th April.

Conſultation of 16th May.

Letter from the Nabob to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, in Conſultation, 3d June..

In the Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, in the ſame Conſultation, and in Conſultation of the 25th June.

THE ſum of the whole is, that Lord Pigot cauſed poſſeſſion to be given to the Rajah of Tanjore of certain diſtricts in the countries of Ramnaud and Shew-gango, better known by the Names of Marrawa and Neelcota, forcibly removing the Nabob's people who had charge of them. The Nabob alledges, that theſe diſtricts never appertained to Tanjore, and that it was the rebellious invaſion of them by the Rajah in 1771 which drew on him the Nabob's reſentment, and the firſt expedition againſt Tanjore; and that the Rajah afterwards diſclaimed all future pretenſions to them in writing. On the other hand, Lord Pigot and the Council of Fort St. George join in affirming, that the diſtricts in queſtion were actually in the Rajah's poſſeſſion in 1762, and therefore are now reſtored to him. "As it appears that the Company's orders are, that "the Rajah ſhall be put in poſſeſſion of ſuch places as he held when "the treaty between him and the Nabob was guarantied by the Engliſh," I cannot doubt that there were better grounds for this aſſertion, ſince the whole Board ſeem to have joined in it, than the quotations which they have introduced to prove it; which do not prove it; on the contrary, they ſerve rather to caſt doubts on the juſtice of the Rajah's pretenſions,

ſince it appears, that although the Rajah was in poſſeſſion of theſe diſtricts in the year 1762, and before the concluſion of the treaty, he had then but newly acquired them by violence; which the Nabob complained of as an act of injuſtice and uſurpation, and re-claimed the places as his property in the very Letter which is quoted in proof of the Rajah's right of poſſeſſion. Whether they were reſtored to him, or remained in the Rajah's poſſeſſion, does not appear; but it may be preſumed, from the preſent Rajah's Letter to Mr. Dupré, dated 25th March 1771, and entered in Conſultation of the 25th June, that he was not at that time in poſſeſſion of them; and it is not probable that he recovered them in the low ſtate to which his power was afterwards reduced, by the conſequences of the firſt expedition againſt his country. I have read with attention the General Letter of the 12th April 1775, but cannot find any paſſage in it which directs, that the Rajah ſhall be put in poſſeſſion of ſuch places as he held when the treaty of 1762 was concluded; unleſs the 20th paragraph of the General Letter may admit of ſuch a concluſion. The reverſe may be inferred from the 30th paragraph of that Letter, which, alluding to the Rajah's invaſion of the countries of Marrawa and Neelcota as the aſſigned cauſe of the firſt expedition againſt Tanjore, admits the Rajah to have been "reprehenſible on that account;" an admiſſion, which, by an infallible conſequence, allows the Nabob's right to retain the poſſeſſion, until it ſhould be proved that it belonged to the Rajah by the treaty of 1762. But granting that the Company's orders have directed that the Rajah ſhall be reſtored to the poſſeſſion of all that he held at that time, and granting that he had at that time the poſſeſſion of the diſtricts in queſtion, yet ſurely there could be no excuſe for employing a military force to expel the Nabob's Agents, until application had been firſt made to him in form and he had refuſed to reſtore them. Such a proceeding would have been improper even towards a neutral prince, much more ſo towards the Nabob of the Carnatic. Had the mode which I have mentioned been obſerved, it is moſt likely, from the general tenor of the Nabob's conduct, that he would have refuſed his conſent, but ſent orders of acquieſcence to his agents. In default of ſuch orders his agents might have repelled the hoſtility offered to them, and in that caſe, Lord Pigot, who iſſued the order, would certainly have been the aggreſſor. It is obſervable, that the promiſe made to the Rajah to put his people in poſſeſſion of Hanamantagoody, &c. (the diſtricts in queſtion) was not written until the 15th May, when Lord Pigot was at Madraſs; and, however urgent the occaſion might have been, there could not have been the leaſt delay in making the application to the Nabob, as the place

of

of the Nabob's reſidence is ſeparated but by a wall from that of his Lordſhip's.

In this inſtance I think it is clearly proved that Lord Pigot was guilty of an unneceſſary, unauthorized, and unjuſt act of hoſtility againſt the Nabob.

9th. This complaint is but recently mentioned in the Nabob's Letter to the Governor-General, dated the 25th Jeme-de-ul-awul. It merits enquiry, and ought for that purpoſe to be tranſmitted to the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George.

In enumerating the ſpecific articles of complaint exhibited by the Nabob againſt Lord Pigot, I have paſſed over the principal matter of complaint, and that from which all the reſt have originated, namely, his deprivation of the country of Tanjore, this being in effect an act of the Honorable Company, and perhaps not imputable to Lord Pigot; and if ſo, not ſubject to the reviſal of this Government. Yet I cannot avoid one obvious remark, which has been ſuggeſted to me by a careful peruſal of their orders, which ſeems to imply a different intention from that underſtood by the Right Honorable the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George. In theſe orders the Company ſeem to have felt the delicacy and danger which might attend the execution of them, and for that cauſe to have marked with preciſion the line to which they might be extended, but allowed a large diſcretionary power to moderate the effect of them. They do not even direct, in expreſs terms, that the Nabob *ſhall* be diſpoſſeſſed, nor that the Rajah *ſhall* be reſtored, although they ſay they are "*Reſolved* to *contribute* towards the reſtoration of the King of Tanjore;" and order the Preſident and Council "To inform him, that "they have *determined* to replace him upon the throne of his anceſtors, "upon certain terms, &c. without intringing the rights of Mahomed "Ally Khan, the Nabob of the Carnatic."

Theſe expreſſions, taken in their plain and literal ſenſe, would ſeem to imply, that although it was their fixed deſign to reſtore the Rajah of Tanjore, yet the execution of it was reſerved to an indefinite time; and that the ſecurity of his perſon, and the conditions of his re-eſtabliſhment, were the only points which their preſent orders required to be adjuſted; yet I think it plain from the ſubſequent inſtructions, which could not be carried into effect without the Rajah's previous reſtoration, nor delayed

without much confuſion and danger, that they intended, by theſe cautious intimations of their wiſhes, to leave the time and mode of their accompliſhment to the diſcretion of the Preſident and Council. According to this conſtruction, the Government of Fort St. George were authorized, but not commanded, to proceed immediately to the reſtoration of the Rajah, provided the expreſs conditions directed in their orders, and the maintenance of the Nabob's rights, could be previouſly ſecured; and without theſe conditions, and this reſervation, they were not authorized to reſtore the Rajah. Theſe conditions are detailed and explained with ſo minute an exactneſs, as leave no room or latitude either for miſconception or for deviation from them.

The ſubject is of that importance, that I have thought it neceſſary to be very minute and particular in collecting the ſenſe of the Company's orders; they are the only teſt by which we can obtain a proper judgment of the conduct of Lord Pigot, and of the Preſidency of Fort St. George, in their late proceedings reſpecting the Nabob of Arcot and the Rajah of Tanjore, which are a connected ſeries of hoſtilities, every one of which, not authorized by the ſpecial orders of the Company, or by imminent neceſſity, is an infringement of the Act of Parliament, which veſts the ordering and directing of ſuch hoſtilities ſolely in the Governor-General and Council of Bengal. I do not mean to examine too cloſely the rights of the Nabob, as they may be affected by theſe tranſactions, except in thoſe inſtances in which the Company's orders have been palpably exceeded, and his rights violated. Some I have already noticed; I ſhall now proceed to others, which are not mentioned as diſtinct articles of grievance in the Nabob's Letters, though involved in them, but which appear in the Minutes of the Conſultations.

In the 8th Paragraph of their inſtructions, the Preſident and Council are ordered to aſſure the Rajah of Tanjore, that "If the annual amount" of the expenſes of the Company's troops allotted to the garriſon of Tanjore "Shall at any time be leſs than the revenues aſſigned to the Com-"pany, the ſurplus of the ſaid revenues ſhall be faithfully returned to "him; but if the expenſe of the garriſon ſhall exceed the amount of the "revenues ſo aſſigned, then the King of Tanjore ſhall make good the "deficiency."

The equity of this rule has been totally ſet aſide by the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George, in the ſtipulation made by him,

and confirmed by them, of a fixed ſubſidy to be paid by the Rajah.

Though the ſixth paragraph directs, that " a garriſon of the Com- " pany's troops ſhall be admitted into the fort of Tanjore," yet there is not the leaſt intimation of a deſire, that the whole Country of Tanjore ſhould be protected by the Company's troops; and the reſolution of the Preſident and Council to that effect on the 25th of April, although followed by an offer of the Rajah to the ſame purpoſe on the meeting between him and Lord Pigot, is both a diminution of the Rajah's " authority over his ſubjects," and an infringement of the rights of the Nabob " of the Carnatic," by the power thus exerciſed over the Nabob's Vaſſal, to the total excluſion of his ſovereignty: this meaſure is therefore unauthorized, contrary to the orders of the Company, and illegal.

The appointment of a civil reſident at Tanjore having paſſed, with much oppoſition from ſome of the Members of the Council of Fort St. George, on the grounds of its being contrary to the Company's orders, it may be neceſſary to advert to it, although I do not conceive it liable to that objection, nor the propriety of it to fall within the cognizance of this Board.

There are two paſſages in the correſpondence of Lord Pigot with the Nabob, which, though only ſpeculative, yet, as they are declaratory of the principles of his political conduct, ought not to be paſſed unnoticed: I ſhall quote them at large.

Extract

Extract of Lord Pigot's Letter to the Nabob, dated 20th April.

" I WILL never interfere in your buſineſs, &c. but when that buſineſs " is connected with the intereſt of my employers; in ſuch caſe you may " be aſſured that I ſhall always act as appears to be proper; and as " you are their old friend and ally, I dare ſay you will approve of my " making uſe of your authority."

Extract of Lord Pigot's Letter to the Nabob, dated 13th May.

" SHALL the gates of Arialoor, or any other gates in the Payen " Ghaut, be ſhut againſt the troops of the Company, who have fought " for you near thirty years, when they aſk admittance by my authority? " I hope not. This would be an improper return to the man who put " your Highneſs in poſſeſſion of them, upon your ſolemn aſſurances that " there was no diſtinction between you and the Company, and that " you wiſhed it only for the appearance it would have with the country " powers."

I believe that theſe doctrines have made the ſame impreſſion on every Member of the Board as that which I myſelf felt in peruſing them. In effect I think them more alarming in their tendency to ſubvert the political ſyſtem, which has been forming during the ſpace of thirty years paſt in the Carnatic, than any ſpecific act which has yet been committed againſt the rights of the Nabob or the intereſts of the Company; becauſe, if admitted as ruling principles, there is no ſpecies of violence and indignity, which can be offered to the Nabob, to which they may not be applied. If it be allowed to the Preſident of Fort St. George to make uſe of the Nabob's authority, even in the Nabob's own affairs when they are connected with the Company's intereſts, it neceſſarily follows, that the Preſident muſt be the judge of the connexion; and as the choice of meaſures is left alſo to his pleaſure, he may employ the Nabob's authority both againſt the will, right, property, and even the perſon of the Nabob. The conſequences of the right claimed by Lord Pigot to enter every gate in the Carnatic with the Company's forces are equally dangerous, as the right itſelf, if admitted, would be a direct ſubverſion of the Nabob's ſovereignty over the Carnatic.

The principal rank which the Eaſt-India Company occupies among the powers of India, renders them in every political ſtep which they make an object of general attention, and too often of general alarm. In their concerns with their neighbours and allies, the moſt ſcrupulous obſervance of their public engagements and of the rights of others ought to be their firſt and ruling object; for every Prince and ſtate, whoſe poſſeſſions may ſtand within ſight of the Company's ambition, is naturally led to apply to their own intereſts the treatment which they ſee others receive from the Company and their dependants.

I have been told, I know not with what truth, that the Nabob Aſoph O'Dowlah received a very early information of the Company's late orders, no doubt exaggerated, concerning Tanjore, and expreſſed great apprehenſion of the conſequences of ſuch a precedent. It is eaſy to trace the progreſs of ſuch an impreſſion, on a mind even leſs weak than his, to effects of the moſt fatal kind, the certain production of diſtruſt, and the care of ſelf-preſervation.

To qualify the paſt acts in ſuch a manner as may efface the public impreſſion made by them, and conciliate the Nabob's mind without departing from that purſuit of juſtice which has hitherto impelled the Honourable the Court of Directors thus far to eſpouſe the cauſe of the *Rajah of* * Tanjore, is not within the power of this Board. This depends on higher authority; nor will even this be ſufficient. With reſpect to the part which this Government has to act, if the other members of it agree with me in opinion of the paſt conduct of Lord Pigot, and of the unhappy temper which has actuated it, I think that they have but this alternative, either to proceed to the rigorous extremity pointed out by the act of Parliament, or to employ ſome mode of protection, by which the Nabob may be guarded againſt future wrongs and indignities, until the final remedy ſhall be preſcribed by the Honourable Company. I own I much incline to the latter, and for that purpoſe ſhall propoſe, if no better expedient be ſuggeſted, that a perſon be appointed to reſide with the Nabob of Arcot, as the Miniſter and Repreſentative of this Government, empowered to receive both ſuch communications as the Nabob may think proper to make to this Board, and in our name to call upon the Governor and Council of Fort St. George for the ſuſpenſion of every act of their's, by which the Nabob's rights may be uſurped or infringed, or the Company's faith or the National honour endangered.

* The words, "*Rajah of*," are not in the Original.

Vide the Nabob's letter to the Governor-General, No. 132. *

The Nabob himſelf has requeſted that a perſon might be deputed to Fort St. George, to witneſs and to report to us the truth of his complaints; and the preſent diſpoſition of many of the members of the Council of Fort St. George, affords an additional reaſon for the belief that ſuch an appointment ſtrengthened with the powers which I have recommended to be annexed to it, will prove the moſt effectual, as it will be the leaſt exceptionable means of protection which can be afforded the Nabob.

For the redreſs of the paſt there is but one ſubject which I think can admit of it, the transfer of the diſtricts of Marrawa and Neelcota to the Rajah of Tanjore. My opinion is, that if the Nabob ſtill perſiſts in his claim to theſe diſtricts, the Rajah ſhould be obliged to relinquiſh them to his agents, and a commiſſion appointed to examne upon the ſpot the foundation of their reſpective pretenſions. This Commiſſion may be formed either of perſons choſen by the two parties, or by agents nominated by the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George, with the conſent of both parties, if that can be obtained, and their award tranſmitted to this Board for confirmation.

A true extract and copy of the Governor-General's minute.

J. P. AURIOL, Secretary.

Letter from Andrew Stuart Eſquire, to the Chairman of the Court of Directors.

SIR,

IT may poſſibly appear to you, or to ſome of the gentlemen in the Direction of the Eaſt-India Company's affairs, ſomewhat ſingular, that during your late important diſcuſſions, where the propriety of my brother's conduct was directly or indirectly brought in queſtion, there ſhould have been no ſymptoms of my taking any intereſt in theſe matters, nor any attempt made to prevent or remove prejudices, with regard to the part Colonel Stuart had acted during the late unhappy convulſions at Madras.

It is on that account that I now take the liberty of addreſſing to you this letter, to explain the reaſon of my ſilence hitherto, and at

* N. B. Bengal Country Correſpondence is not come to hand.

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the ſame time to communicate to you, without reſerve, the ſtate of my mind with regard to the reported tranſactions at Madras, and the proceedings which I am informed theſe reports have recently given riſe to in this country.

From the 18th of March to the 5th of this month I was not in London, having gone to Scotland, where I was neceſſarily detained, attending my re-election, during the very period which I now underſtand was ſo much occupied here by diſputes and proceedings relative to the Madras buſineſs.

From this you will perceive, that ſuppoſing me to have been diſpoſed to take a part in theſe diſputes, my neceſſary abſence from London had deprived me of the opportunity.

But I may venture to go one ſtep further, by aſſuring you, that even if I had been upon the ſpot, the only part I ſhould have taken during that period of imperfect information, would have been to requeſt the Directors and Proprietors to ſuſpend their opinions of my brother's conduct, until there ſhould be an opportunity of inveſtigating, and learning with certainty, what that conduct and the motives of it had truly been.

Even at this hour I do not think myſelf ſufficiently informed, in theſe reſpects, to be able to form a deciſive opinion; it is my intention to collect the beſt information that can be obtained of the real tranſactions, and after examining, to the beſt of my judgement, the accounts given by the contending parties, I ſhall then have no difficulty in declaring to you ſincerely the point of view in which theſe matters preſent themſelves to me.—I have not the preſumption however to ſuppoſe, that any judgment that may happen to be formed by me on this ſubject, is to have influence in forming or altering the opinions of others.

It may eaſily be ſuppoſed, that in this enquiry, I wiſh exceedingly that I may have reaſon to think that my brother has acted properly, and in ſuch a manner as may entitle him to the approbation of the public; ſo conſcious am I of the earneſtneſs of this wiſh, that I ſhall endeavour as much as poſſible to be upon my guard againſt it's miſleading my judgment;

judgment; nor ſhall I willingly ſuffer myſelf to be engaged, either in any precipitate unauthorized defence or approbation of my brother's conduct, or in any attack upon the conduct of others with whom he has happened to differ upon this occaſion.

I will fairly own to you, that the arreſting and confining the perſon of a Governor appears to me a ſtrong meaſure, and ſuch as requires very powerful reaſons to juſtify it;—I ſhall further acknowledge, that if the accounts given by one party of the mode in which this was accompliſhed, and of the circumſtances attending it be ſtrictly true, there is ſomething in it which conveys to me a very diſagreeable impreſſion; nor ſhall I attempt to reconcile to the minds of others, what I find ſo difficult to reconcile to my own.

If the facts as ſtated could be ſuppoſed to be true, and that the only defence for the mode in which the arreſt of Lord Pigot's perſon was conducted and completed ſhall be, that there was no other poſſible method of avoiding bloodſhed and civil war, the fate of the perſon unfortunately obliged to make the option in ſuch an alternative muſt have been very diſagreable and diſtreſſing; for I can hardly ſuppoſe a man ſo conſtituted, as not to feel ſtrong reluctance and averſion to employ the methods aſcribed by one party to Colonel Stuart in the accompliſhment of Lord Pigot's arreſt.

It is ſo improbable that theſe things ſhould have happened in the manner they are related, and if ſtrong meaſures have been reſorted to at Madras, the materials for judging of the neceſſity of them are at preſent ſo incomplete, that juſtice and candour require us to ſuſpend our judgements with regard to the conduct of the principal actors, until that conduct and the motives of it are properly inveſtigated, and that all parties ſhall have an opportunity of being heard.

Great pains I underſtand have been taken in various quarters, not only to excite the greateſt degree of prejudice againſt my brother's conduct, but to hurry the Directors and Proprietors into precipitate opinions and reſolutions, which are of ſuch a nature, as infer both judgment and condemnation before trial.

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I am therefore under the neceſſity of ſubmitting to your conſideration ſome circumſtances entitled to weight with the Directors and Proprietors, for diſpoſing them to ſuſpend ſuch opinions or reſolutions until my brother's conduct ſhall be fully and fairly inveſtigated; and I beg I may be underſtood to ſtate them with that view only.

In the firſt place, it is a certain fact, that the diſſenſion and animoſity between Lord Pigot and the majority of the Council at Madras took riſe long before my brother arrived in India.—He did not arrive there 'till the month of May laſt, and I have letters in my poſſeſſion from him, ſoon after his arrival, as well as letters from others, mentioning the diſtracted ſtate in which he found matters there, on account of the diſputes and diſſenſions between Lord Pigot and the Council.

The ſame letters mention, that my brother had hitherto abſtained from taking part with either ſide in theſe diſputes; and that it was his intention to avoid mixing in faction, and to apply himſelf to his own buſineſs in the military line. The advices received by the Company from India ſome months ago muſt have confirmed theſe facts, and have ſatisfied you, that the origin of the diſſenſions at Madras was long before before my brother's arrival in that part of the world.

Secondly, I have particular occaſion to know, that when my brother left this country it was his wiſh and intention to be on the beſt terms with Lord Pigot; and for this purpoſe he had obtained ſtrong letters of recommendation from Lord Pigot's particular friends in this country. Admiral Pigot was, as I underſtood from my brother, very obliging on that occaſion, in ſupplying him with letters to promote the good correſpondence between Lord Pigot and him.

It muſt alſo be very evident to every perſon acquainted even with the general account that has been circulated of the tranſactions at Madras,

that, ſo far as intereſt is concerned, it appeared to be Colonel's Stuart's intereſt to have remained on the beſt terms with Lord Pigot; and as his Lordſhip did upon two different occaſions, in the months of July and Auguſt laſt, offer him the command in chief of all the forces in that country, he by declining theſe offers, and by obeying the orders of the majority of the Council, deprived himſelf of a ſituation and advantages much more conſiderable than any that could be beſtowed on him by the party whoſe orders he obeyed; for the conſequence of the part he has acted is, that he remains ſecond in command, without a ſeat in Council, and without any advantages or emoluments comparable to thoſe enjoyed by the Commander in Chief; whereas, if he had eſpouſed Lord Pigot's intereſt, the immediate command in chief of the army devolved upon him, with a ſeat in Council, and all the privileges and advantages belonging to the firſt military ſituation. His ſenior officer, Sir Robert Fletcher, then Commander in Chief, being at that time under an arreſt to be tried by a Court Martial, there was little chance of Colonel Stuart's not enjoying the command of the army during Lord Pigot's government.

From theſe circumſtances it ſeems probable, that in the part my brother has acted he has not been guided by ſelf-intereſt; there may have been an error of judgment in the opinion formed by him of Lord Pigot's conduct, but there is great reaſon to preſume, that the alteration from his original diſpoſitions with regard to his Lordſhip, and the part he choſe of obeying the orders of the majority of the Council, aroſe not from intereſted views, but from an opinion that Lord Pigot was acting illegally, and that the majority of the Council was the legal Government, which he was bound to obey.

Here I beg leave to be underſtood, that it is by no means my intention to aſſert either that Lord Pigot had acted illegally, or that the legal Government was veſted in the majority of the Council; I only mean to

ſay, that it ſeems to me probable my brother proceeded on theſe ideas; but whether they were well or ill founded I do not pretend to judge.

Thirdly, The ſtrong and marked approbation of the Governor-General and Supreme Council in Bengal, ſeems of itſelf ſufficient to prevent any opinions or reſolutions unfavourable to Colonel Stuart, at leaſt until matters are further examined.

In the letter of 15th September from General Clavering to Colonel Stuart, there is not only an approbation of his conduct, but in terms the moſt flattering to him the General gives him applauſe for the honour of conducting *ſo difficult and dangerous a buſineſs*, and for the *ſpirit* and *magnanimity* with which he had executed it.

When theſe diſtinguiſhed marks of approbation are beſtowed by General Clavering, whoſe ſenſe of honour, and whoſe ſentiments of propriety and delicacy of conduct as an officer and a gentleman, are ſo well known and eſtabliſhed, it is but fair and reaſonable to preſume, until the contrary is proved, that Colonel Stuart's conduct had not only appeared to the Supreme Council at Bengal right and proper in itſelf, but that in the manner of carrying the order of the Council into execution, and in the mode of arreſting Lord's Pigot's perſon, there had been nothing unhandſome, improper, or unſuitable to the character of a gentleman and an officer.

It appears from General Clavering's letter of the 15th, and from Governor Haſtings of the 18th September, that both of them gave great credit to Colonel Stuart for the mode in which Lord Pigot's arreſt had been accompliſhed—"*Without bloodſhed, without tumult, and* "*without the violation of one legal form.*" Theſe are the words of Governor Haſtings' letter to Mr. Stratton, wherein he talks with a degree of admiration of this as a thing almoſt without example; and from General Clavering's letter it appears, that he conſidered a war in

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the Carnatic as inevitable, if this laſt deciſive ſtep had not been taken. He ſays to Colonel Stuart, " *Whatever advantages therefore ariſe from the* " *preſervation of ſo faithful an ally (the Nabob of Arcot) or to the Company's* " *commerce, by the peace of the Carnatic being preſerved, the Company are* " *indebted chiefly to you for them.*"

Such are the expreſſions made uſe of by General Clavering in his letter to my brother, and by Governor Haſtings in his letter to Mr. Stratton, and ſuch the light in which this matter preſented itſelf to the Supreme Council at Bengal after hearing the aſſertions of both parties.

It is not with a view to acquire any poſitive opinion at preſent in favour of my brother's conduct, that I have ſelected from a number of other circumſtances which might have been ſtated in his favour, thoſe which are now ſubmitted to your conſideration, but merely to make uſe of them as reaſons for a ſuſpenſion of any unfavourable judgment or proceedings to his prejudice, until the matter is more fully examined.

I do not wiſh to enter at all into the merits of the queſtion between Lord Pigot and his Council, nor to aſſert or inſinuate any thing to his Lordſhip's prejudice. It is well known that it was my earneſt recommendation to my brother, at leaving this country, to cultivate a good underſtanding with his Lordſhip, whom I had always been accuſtomed to conſider as a reſpectable man, to whom the India Company had been under great obligations at a particular period during the laſt war.

I took occaſion alſo to write to my brother in the ſtrongeſt terms in the month of January, 1776, requeſting and inſiſting with him, that he ſhould confine himſelf entirely to his own buſineſs and profeſſion in the military line, and that he ſhould avoid all interference in the

factions or political intrigues which I underſtood too often took place in our Settlements in India. This was recommended to him in ſuch a manner, that I have reaſon to be confident it would have weight with him; and as I find by his letter of 30th September now before me, that he had received mine of January before the late violent diſturbances at Madras, it gives me ſome degree of hope, that the part he took in the buſineſs upon the 23d and 24th Auguſt was not the reſult of any preceding ſpirit of faction or intrigue, but a ſudden reſolution taken in conſequence of his being reduced to the diſagreeable alternative, of either diſobeying the orders of Lord Pigot, or thoſe of the majority of the Council.

The paragraph in my brother's letter of 30th September, on the above ſubject, is in theſe words:

" *I feel in my own breaſt the greateſt inward ſatisfaction, ariſing from a* " *cool reflection on what is paſt; and am particularly happy, that upon an at-* " *tentive peruſal of your long letter, I do not find I can charge myſelf with* " *a breach of thoſe rules which your friendſhip preſcribes; ſince I am convin-* " *ced that, by* not interfering in politicks, *you could not mean, that as a mili-* " *tary man I was to obey unlawful authority inſtead of ſupporting Govern-* " *ment.*"

The concluſion of his letter to me, which is a very long one, and at your command whenever you chooſe to peruſe it, is in theſe words:

" *The candid part of the world will juſtify me from the imputation of every* " *ſelfiſh and intereſted view, when it is known, that acting upon conſtitutional* " *principles, I have at two different times refuſed the command of the army* " *offered to me by Lord Pigot; and upon this occaſion I have exerted myſelf in* " *defence of the rights of the Company at the hazard of my life. Were it poſ-* " *ſible for me ever to feel the impreſſion of ſuch motives, it may be reaſonably* " *aſked, What advantages can poſſibly be derived to me from my preſent con-*

" *duct? or what is there that this or any other Government can give me, that* " *I might not have had from Lord Pigot? My conduct in this reſpect muſt* " *remain an inconteſtable proof to every impartial perſon of my having acted* " *from conſcience, and from conviction of the rectitude of the cauſe in which* " *I was engaged.*

" *Before I take my leave of you, my dear brother, I ſhall beg leave to re-* " *peat, what I have already declared to my friend General Clavering, that as* " *I hope for mercy, I never had any promiſe, neither am I in poſſeſſion or ex-* " *pectation of any private benefit whatever reſulting from the change now* " *brought about in this Government.*"

If you will allow me to ſhew you the whole of my brother's diſpatches upon this occaſion, you will perceive, that ſo far from having any idea of the poſſibility of prejudices ariſing againſt him in this country on account of what he had done, he ſeems to be under the influence of the ſtrongeſt conviction, that he had done a moſt meritorious ſervice to the Eaſt-India Company and to the country in general, by preſerving peace in the Carnatic, by eſtabliſhing what appeared to him to be the legal Government, and accompliſhing all this without bloodſhed or tumult.

So much is he under the influence of that conviction, that in the laſt letter received from him, dated 10th October, he deſires me, on the footing of the ſervices he has upon this occaſion rendered to the India Company, and to the Britiſh Empire in India, to apply to the Company for the rank to him of Brigadier-General in India by brevet; and further ſuggeſts, that as he had been 14 years a Lieutenant-Colonel in the King's ſervice, and had never yet received any mark of favour for the part he acted in the ſucceſsful ſtorming of the Moro Fort at the Havannah, that he thinks this recent ſervice in India ſhould, with his former ſervices during laſt war, obtain to him the rank of Colonel in the King's army.

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By thus laying before you the ſtate of Colonel Stuart's mind upon this occaſion, as painted in his private letters to a brother, it will readily occur to you, what a ſevere diſappointment and mortification it will be to him, if, inſtead of thoſe publick marks of approbation, which his imagination had already almoſt realized to him, he ſhould find, that his character and conduct upon this occaſion have been attacked in the moſt violent manner, that the circumſtances of his behaviour have been painted in colours the moſt likely to excite prejudices, and even indignation againſt him, before any account had arrived here from himſelf, and before there was an opportunity of informing the Public of the true ſtate of facts, and that, upon no other authority than a letter from Alexandria, from a gentleman known to have taken a very warm part in theſe diſputes, and to be the declared enemy of Colonel Stuart.

I do not mean by this to impute any blame to Admiral Pigot, or the other friends of Lord Pigot in this country, for endeavouring to intereſt the Proprietors and the Publick ſtrongly in his Lordſhip's favour; it was natural for them, believing what they had heard, and thinking as they did of the proceedings at Madras, to be inflamed with zeal for his Lordſhip, and with indignation againſt thoſe who had any ſhare in the events which had happened to him; and, in that temper, it was natural for them to avail themſelves of what may be called the *honeſt prejudices* of the Publick; for theſe prejudices, inſtilled by the letter from Alexandria, were founded on compaſſion for a man conſidered as injured, and indignation at thoſe whom the Publick then conceived to have acted towards him both harſhly and unjuſtly.

But Lord Pigot's friends muſt think it equally natural on my part, to endeavour to prevent theſe prejudices from extending their influence too far in this buſineſs.

In the preſent ſtage of theſe Indian diſputes, before the facts have been properly aſcertained, it is not my wiſh, nor my intention, to make

any aſſertions, favourable or unfavourable either to Lord Pigot's or to my brother's cauſe; but I do moſt ſincerely wiſh, that there may be a full, fair, and impartial examination into the conduct of all the perſons at Madras, who have been concerned in the late important tranſactions there, and that this may be done in the moſt ſpeedy manner, and in that manner which is moſt likely to prove effectual for bringing the truth to light, and for making every actor appear to the Publick in his proper colours.

As I cannot doubt, that a meaſure ſo requiſite for the honour and intereſt, not only of individuals, but of the India Company, and of the Britiſh Nation in general, will be adopted; the object of my preſent requeſt is no more, than that, in the interval which precedes the enquiry, the Directors and Proprietors of the India Company may be pleaſed to ſuſpend their opinion of Colonel Stuart's conduct; and that they may alſo be pleaſed to abſtain, during that interval, from any reſolutions, which, by inferring an immediate diſapprobation of his conduct, may be eſſentially prejudicial to him.

You know, Sir, that when my brother went to India, he was appointed ſecond in command, to ſucceed to the command in chief upon any vacancy by the death, reſignation, or removal of Sir Robert Fletcher, the Commander in Chief.

I have been told, that on the 4th of April, before my arrival in London, and very recently after the arrival of the firſt advices about theſe diſturbances at Madras, a meſſage was ſent by the Directors to Lieutenant-Colonel Munro, deſiring him to accept of the command in chief at Madras; and that it has even been in agitation to ſend out another officer ſecond in command there. Theſe ſteps, if true, have been carried on with ſo much expedition, and with ſo little notice to any perſon concerned on the part of the firſt and ſecond in command upon the Coaſt of Coromandel, that I muſt be excuſed for thinking it a hard meaſure

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on the two gentlemen who now fill theſe ſtations: it is in effect proceeding to judgment and condemnation of them, even before any notice given to themſelves or to their friends to prepare for their defence.

If there is to be a certain number of Commiſſioners ſent to India to enquire into the late diſorders at Madras, and to reſtore peace and good government in that country, I do not deny that it is reaſonable and equitable, that during ſuch enquiry the principal actors on all ſides, whether in the civil or military ſervice of the Company, ſhould be ſuſpended from their functions, and that others ſhould be appointed to occupy their places, until, by the reſult of the enquiry, it ſhall appear whether the perſons thus ſuſpended had been faithful or unfaithful ſervants to the intereſts of the Company; when ſuch enquiry is completed, let the ſubſequent fate of every man be regulated by his merit or demerit in the tranſactions which gave riſe to the enquiry.

But ſurely it cannot be your intention, Sir, nor that of the other gentlemen in the Direction of the Eaſt-India Company's affairs, to adopt a mode of proceeding in this particular caſe, which ſhall have the effect to make diſapprobation and puniſhment precede enquiry.

This is ſo repugnant to every principle or rule of proceeding hitherto obſerved, either by the India Company, or by any ſociety of men acquainted with the bleſſings of the Britiſh Conſtitution, that I cannot perſuade myſelf that there is any ſerious intention of adopting it.

But it will be adopting it effectually, if any officers are to be ſent to Madras, with Commiſſions to ſuperſede Sir Robert Fletcher and Colonel Stuart, and that for an indefinite period of time.

That a proper officer ſhould be appointed to take the command of the army during the enquiry into the conduct of Sir Robert Fletcher

and Colonel Stuart, is a meaſure which cannot with propriety be objected againſt; but it is ſubmitted, that the commiſſion to ſuch officer ſhould be temporary, to ſubſiſt only 'till the enquiry into the conduct of the preſent firſt and ſecond in command at Madras ſhall be compleated; or at leaſt, that the commiſſion to be granted to any officer now to be ſent to Madras, ſhould not be prejudicial either to Sir Robert Fletcher or to Colonel Stuart, in the event of the propoſed enquiry terminating in a manner honourable for them.

It muſt be admitted on all hands, that it is at leaſt a *poſſible caſe* that Colonel Stuart, in the part he has acted, in obedience to the orders of the majority of the Council, may, inſtead of deſerving cenſure or ſuperceſſion, have actually done what was proper and meritorious on his part.

It is alſo at leaſt a *poſſible caſe*, that if he has done wrong, or acted irregularly in obeying the orders of the majority of Council, he has been guilty only of an error in judgment, and that his conduct may appear to have been guided by the beſt intentions for the intereſt of the Company.

Upon theſe ſuppoſitions, I beg leave to ſubmit it to your conſideration, and to that of the other gentlemen in the Direction of the Company's affairs, to whom I beg this letter may be communicated as ſoon as poſſible, whether it would not be the ſource of much regret and uneaſineſs hereafter to yourſelves, if you ſhould find, that by a ſudden reſolution, founded on the firſt reports, your conduct to an officer, who in the event ſhall be found to have deſerved well of the Company, had been ſuch, that it was no longer in your power to redreſs the material injury that had been done to him, both in point of ſituation and character.

You

You will obſerve, Sir, that in the whole courſe of this letter, I have not pretended either to approve of my brother's conduct, or to advance any thing againſt that of his opponents; I have contended for nothing elſe but a fair and impartial enquiry, and a ſuſpenſe of deciſive judgment until ſuch enquiry is completed.

In contending for this equitable conduct, I have not availed myſelf of the intelligence recently received from Madras, by a very reputable and eſteemed ſervant of the Company, Colonel Capper, who has brought letters and accounts containing ſuch a favourable repreſentation of Colonel Stuart's conduct, and beſtowing ſuch encomiums upon it, as might perhaps have entitled me to ſtate it as ſomething ſtronger than a *mere poſſibility*, that his conduct, upon enquiry, may be found to have been meritorious.

To enter into the particulars of the accounts thus received by Colonel Capper, would be engaging further in this conteſt than I have any inclination to do at preſent, and further than I can at any rate permit myſelf to do, until I am poſſeſſed of full information on both ſides of the queſtion.

It is ſufficient for the only purpoſe I have in view, that of an impartial enquiry, and 'till that happens, a ſuſpenſe of judgment, that there exiſts a *probability*, or even a *poſſibility*, of Colonel Stuart's having acted ſuch a part as entitles him to approbation, or even ſuch a part as does not render him obnoxious to cenſure and puniſhment.

This *probability*, or, if that is diſputed, this *poſſibility*, which no man can deny to exiſt, entitles me, without preſumption, to expect from the Eaſt-India Company that meaſure of juſtice to my brother, which the laws and conſtitution of this country never refuſe, even to the moſt abandoned wretches, when accuſed of the moſt enormous crimes, that they ſhall not be puniſhed, 'till they are tried and heard in their defence.

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Let my brother ſtand or fall by a fair trial and inveſtigation of his conduct; but I truſt with confidence in the juſtice and equity of the Honourable Company, that no ſuch permanent and prejudicial meaſure will be adopted at preſent, as may, by virtually depriving him of his ſituation and proſpects in the ſervice, inflict a very ſevere puniſhment and cenſure upon Colonel Stuart untried and unheard in his own defence.

I have the honour to be,
With great regard,
Sir,
Your moſt obedient
and moſt humble ſervant,

Berkley Square,
14th April, 1777.

ANDW. STUART.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel James Capper to the Honourable the Court of Directors, &c.

Honourable Sirs,

AS I was preſent during the late unhappy diſputes at Madras, although not perſonally concerned in them, and having alſo been charged with the diſpatches which conveyed to your Honourable Court authentic intelligence of the late change of government there, I flatter myſelf you will pardon me for taking the liberty to make ſome *remarks* on Mr. Dalrymple's letter from Alexandria, which I have peruſed in the India-Houſe, and am very ſorry to obſerve, that it is calculated not to inform, but to miſlead thoſe who may give too much credit to it.

I have not yet obtained a copy of that letter, and therefore cannot reply to it ſo particularly as I could wiſh; but ſome parts of it are ſo injurious to the characters of my particular friends, that in juſtice to them, and conſiſtently with my duty to you, I can no longer delay giving a faithful

account of the circumſtances attending the diſplacing Lord Pigot, as they appeared to me and every other unprejudiced perſon on the Coaſt.

Mr. Dalrymple ſays, that the removal of Lord Pigot was effected by the majority, who acted under the influence of the Nabob, and had been concerted long before it took place. The minutes of conſultation from the 20th to the 23d of Auguſt clearly refute this aſſertion. The cauſe of his Lordſhip's arreſt originated in himſelf; for if he had not attempted illegally to ſuſpend ſeven members of the Council, compoſing a majority, he would not have been removed from the chair.

The reſolution for arreſting his Lordſhip did not take place until the 23d Auguſt in the evening, at a meeting of the majority of the Council. In the morning of that day, they agreed to write to the Supreme Council of Bengal, and requeſt "Their aſſiſtance and ſupport," and in the mean time to proteſt againſt the proceedings of Lord Pigot and his party, not with an intention to cauſe any diſturbance in the ſettlement, but merely to acquit themſelves of all reſponſibility as members of the Council, from which they were then violently excluded. I cannot more clearly ſhew the moderation of the majority of the Council, in forbearing to aſſert their rights to the legal authority of government, when Lord Pigot attempted to ſuſpend Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, than by quoting in this place part of a letter written by the Governor-General and Council of Bengal to Mr. Stratton, &c. dated the 10th September.

"After ſo recent an example of the diſpoſition of your late Preſi-
"dent, as appeared in his conduct towards the Nabob, and while our
"deciſion of the appeal that was made to us by the Nabob on that occa-
"ſion was yet depending, we could not be but greatly alarmed for the
"peace of the Carnatic, when we heard of the unexampled meaſures
"by which Lord Pigot had determined to uſurp the power of your go-
"vernment, by attempting to procure a majority in the Council by
"violence, in order to ſanctify his meaſures. Thus deprived of the

" aid on which we had depended, from the integrity of a large majority,
" in the members of your late Council, who had ſtedfaſtly oppoſed the
" hoſtile meaſures adopted by his Lordſhip againſt the Nabob, what
" hope could we any longer entertain, that our orders on theſe points,
" which were contained in our letter of the 7th of Auguſt, would not
" be openly diſobeyed, or covertly eluded, when the execution of them
" was left to the diſcretion of that power they were meant to control."

If the Governor-General and Supreme Council were ſurpriſed at Lord Pigot's conduct, in attempting violently to ſuſpend two members of the Council, they muſt have been greatly alarmed at his ſubſequent behaviour. When the proteſt was carried by the Notary Publick to his Lordſhip, and ſeveral copies of it had been diſtributed amongſt the Company's ſervants, both civil and military, Lord Pigot immediately ſummoned his party, who unanimouſly agreed to ſuſpend the other members of the Council, and to put Sir Robert Fletcher under arreſt, " for exciting ſedition amongſt the troops." This meaſure is by many thought of itſelf ſufficient to juſtify the gentlemen of the majority of the Council for arreſting the perſon of Lord Pigot, as no other means were left of ſaving the life of the Commander in Chief, who was threatened with death for acting according to his opinion as a member of the Board. But the majority were ſtill more induced to aſſume the reins of government, to prevent the uncertainty in which the ſervants, both civil and military, would be left under a doubtful authority, to avoid the great confuſion and danger which might ariſe from it in the army, and above all, to protect the honour and alliance of the Nabob of Arcot, who knew that Lord Pigot and his party had voted his being removed from the ſettlement, who was apprehenſive of being diſgracefully driven from Madras, and therefore was prepared to fly to ſome corner of the Carnatic, or perhaps terrified at the idea of ſuch a violation of the rights, which are inherent even in the pooreſt Britiſh ſubject, he might have ſought that aſylum with the French at Pondicherry, which

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an Engliſh Governor wiſhed to refuſe him in a part of his own dominions, within the Company's power.

Theſe ſeveral alarming conſiderations, independently of their own rights as a majority of the Council, induced them to deviate from the line they had adopted of waiting the determination of the Supreme Council, and to avail themſelves of the power they had in their hands of ſeizing Lord Pigot, which had they delayed but for twenty-four hours, their forbearance would infallably have produced violent commotions in the Settlement, and moſt probably have given riſe to a war with the French, who certainly would not have neglected to avail themſelves of ſuch a favourable opportunity, knowing, as they do from experience, how much their diſſenſions facilitated the Engliſh conqueſt of Pondicherry.

Mr. Dalrymple has not contented himſelf with cenſuring the meaſure of ſuſpending Lord Pigot, but alſo very artfully endeavoured to intereſt the publick in favour of his cauſe, by a ſhameful miſrepreſentation of Colonel Stuart's conduct. The intemperate language in which he has related the account of Lord Pigot's arreſt, muſt in a great meaſure leſſen the credibility of that relation; and thoſe who are acquainted with Colonel Stuart's character as a ſoldier and a man, are convinced, without even hearing his defence, that he is incapable of the brutality and treachery attributed to him by Mr. Dalrymple.

With your permiſſion, Gentlemen, I will inform you of the behaviour of the Colonel on that occaſion, as he openly and uncontradictedly related it himſelf, and as it was confirmed to me by many other reſpectable perſons in your ſervice at Madras.

I muſt beg leave to premiſe, that Lord Pigot in the month of July had put Sir Robert Fletcher under arreſt, and offered the command of the army to Colonel Stuart. The Colonel repreſented to his Lordſhip,

that it was not in his power as Preſident, acting independently of his Council, to put the Commander in Chief under an arreſt; and to prevent any bad conſequences from diſputes ariſing between the Governor and Commander in Chief, he offered to ſtand mediator between them. This voluntary interpoſition on the part of Colonel Stuart, was much to his credit and ſerves as an inconteſtible proof of his diſintereſtedneſs and deſire of preventing diſſenſions. He fortunately ſucceeded in his mediation, and two members of the Council were ſent by Lord Pigot from the Board to apologize to Sir Robert, and to requeſt his attendance in Council.

When Lord Pigot, on the 23d of Auguſt, again offered the command of the army to Colonel Stuart, the Colonel reminded him of what had happened before, adding, that his ſituation was particularly delicate; for if he blindly accepted of his Lordſhip's offer, and that Sir Robert Fletcher was illegally put under arreſt a ſecond time, he became obnoxious to military law for aſſuming the command of the army; he therefore hoped his Lordſhip would pleaſe to allow him the peruſal of the minutes of conſultation of the 3 or 4 preceding days, and then he would give him an anſwer. His Lordſhip admitted the propriety of Colonel Stuart's requeſt, but told him he would talk with him further on the ſubject another time.

On the 24th, in the morning, in conſequence of Lord Pigot's ſilence, Colonel Stuart wrote him the following letter:

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot.

Fort St. George, Auguſt 24th, 1776, *Saturday, 7 o'clock in the Morning.*

MY LORD,

" AS I am vey imperfectly informed of the ſteps which have led to the honour conferred on me yeſterday, and not *thinking myſelf entitled*

" *to*

" *to a ſeat in the Council*, as matters are at preſent circumſtanced; I hope " it will be agreeable to your Lordſhip, to allow me this day to peruſe " the conſultations or other papers paſſed in Council on theſe unhappy " differences. I doubt not but your Lordſhip will find this requeſt " reaſonable, becauſe the practice of this ſervice gives ſuch information " to the perſon commanding the troops from his ſeat in Council. I " do not deſire to put your Lordſhip to the trouble of ordering copies " for my uſe; the Secretary need only to point out to me what is pro- " per for my information, ſo as to do my duty to my Honourable Em- " ployers, according to my oath of fidelity for the public ſervice, and " with honour to myſelf. I therefore truſt your Lordſhip will be plea- " ſed to agree to this requeſt *before* I am called upon *to execute any publick* " *act by authority*. I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

" (Signed) J. STUART."

Colonel Stuart waited at home until one o'clock that day, in expectation of being called into Council, and then went to the Government-Houſe, to know Lord Pigot's determination; his Lordſhip told him it was not then a proper time to ſpeak about buſineſs, and deſired he would ſit down to dinner. When they roſe from table, Colonel Stuart renewed his requeſt; Lord Pigot aſked him, if he meant to bargain for the command of the army? The Colonel anſwered in the negative. His Lordſhip then ſaid, " Come in the evening to the Gardens, and " we will ſettle this point before ſupper." Colonel Stuart found, that Lord Pigot wiſhed only to procraſtinate his anſwer, in expectation that he (Colonel Stuart) would give out ſome order as Commander in Chief, by which means he ſhould be inſnared, right or wrong, into the eſpouſal of his Lordſhip's cauſe; he therefore heſitated no longer what part to act, but, in conſequence of an order received from the majority, he determined, from that inſtant, to aſſiſt them in attempting to get poſſeſſion of the Fort, and of the Company's records.

Averſe even to apparent duplicity, he was obliged to act with caution; for if Lord Pigot had diſcovered his intentions, many people, who now cenſure his (Colonel Stuart's) conduct, might have had cauſe to lament, at this time, the death of ſome relation or friend, and then they would have condemned him as a madman, for executing, with open violence, what might have been equally affected with addreſs.

The appointment Lord Pigot had given Colonel Stuart to meet at the Gardens, enabled him to form a plan for ſeizing his Lordſhip without any confuſion. Lieutenant-Colonel Edingtoun and Captain Lyſaught were ſtationed in the road with a carriage, and ordered to ſtop Lord Pigot in his way to the Gardens. Colonel Stuart alſo accepted an offer made to him by Lord Pigot of accompanying him in the ſame carriage, that he might prevent his Lordſhip, when he ſaw the Seapoys advancing towards him, from attempting to drive paſt the party, which infallibly muſt have produced reſiſtance, force, and perhaps bloodſhed.

When Colonel Edingtoun ſtopt the carriage, Colonel Stuart, inſtead of the rude and brutal ſpeech put into his mouth by Mr. Dalrymple, apologized to his Lordſhip in the following words: "I am extremely "concerned to be employed in this diſagreeable buſineſs, and much "more ſo to have recourſe to any thing like a ſtratagem; however, I "thought this mode preferable to expoſing your Lordſhip's perſon, "and the lives of your friends, to the riſk of a public attack; eſpe-"cially as I flatter myſelf my character as an officer is ſufficiently "known, to ſecure me from the ſuſpicion of acting thus from an ap-"prehenſion of my own ſafety; Captain Lyſaught will convey your "Lordſhip to the Mount, where Major Horne will ſhew you every re-"ſpect that you can poſſibly receive in your preſent ſituation."

Colonel Stuart twice refuſed the command of the army when earneſtly preſſed to accept of it, he therefore cannot reaſonably be

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ſuſpected of having been actuated by ſelf-intereſt; his diſtinguiſhed courage exempts him from the ſuſpicion of fear in privately arreſting Lord Pigot, and his well-known good ſenſe acquits him from any accuſation of unneceſſary rudeneſs, where civility would be equally effectual.

A ſlight reviſion of theſe facts, moſt of which ſtand on the Honourable Company's records, I am in hopes will juſtify Colonel Stuart's conduct. If he had diſobeyed the majority, and attached himſelf to Lord Pigot's party, eſpecially after his ſuperior officer, Sir Robert Fletcher, the Commander in Chief, had declared and acted in favour of the majority of the Council, and in oppoſition to Lord Pigot's pretenſions, a civil war in the ſettlement was inevitable; and if the majority had prevailed, which moſt probably would have happened, from a general eſtabliſhed opinion both among the civil and military ſervants, that the powers of government were veſted in the majority, and not to be deſtroyed by the obſtinacy of a Preſident, Colonel Stuart muſt in that caſe have fallen the firſt ſacrifice; therefore this gentleman was either to ſupport the generally admitted legal government, and to prevent any confuſion and bloodſhed, or to act contrary to his own opinion, be the means of exciting a civil war in the ſettlement, and moſt probably ſuffer an ignominious death.

It is not for me to determine how far he may have erred in ſupporting the majority of the Council againſt Lord Pigot; but I am perſuaded that he acted from a real opinion that his duty, and the intereſt of the Company required him to ſupport that party. When the ſtorm is blown over, that has been raiſed againſt them by the miſrepreſentations of his adverſaries, I make no doubt but juſtice will take place, and then he will be as much commended as he has hitherto been condemned.

I will cloſe my preſent remarks upon Mr. Dalrymple's letter, by explaining to your Honours, what he calls bribing the army. By the

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the book of military regulations on the Coaſt of Coromandel, all Europeans, both officers and ſoldiers were allowed batta, or travelling expenſes at the rate of 25 miles per day. It is obvious to every perſon acquainted with the climate, that this regulation muſt either be ineffectual or very deſtructive to the army; for an European, eſpecially one newly arrived in the country, cannot march at that rate without endangering his health; from a principle of humanity therefore as well in regard to œconomy, in the month of July, as Commiſſary-General, I propoſed at a Committee of Accounts, that Cadets, Non-commiſſioned Officers, and private men, ſhould be allowed batta at the rate of 12 miles per day. In the hurry of buſineſs at the Board, during the months of July and Auguſt, the propoſal lay on the table, but when Lord Pigot was ſuſpended, and the hurry abated, a Member of the Board moved for its being taken into conſideration, and my propoſal was agreed to; not to bribe the army to ſupport the cauſe of the majority, but to ſave the Eaſt-India Company at leaſt £.5000 per annum, in their recruiting expenſes and hoſpital charges, and alſo to prevent the deſtruction of the moſt valuable part of the Company's troops.

I hope, Gentlemen, you will forgive me for alſo taking notice of this addreſs of a letter which a Mr. Smith, of Madras, took upon him to write you on the political affairs of your Preſidency, which he is neither concerned in nor underſtands. Mr. Smith is not Mayor of Madras, he is only one of the Aldermen and a free merchant in the place; in neither of theſe capacities could it become his duty to trouble you on theſe ſubjects. But ſuppoſing him really Mayor, and that he had addreſſed you in the character that he improperly aſſumes, his advice ought undoubtedly to have been confined to the mere fact of the arreſt of Lord Pigot, the application to the Court for a Writ of Habeas Corpus and the Court's refuſal. Does it become a Judge to take a decided part? What weight can his teſtimony carry, who ſets out by declaring his opinion before he ſtates the facts? and with affected

affected compaſſion inſinuates the baſeſt ſlanders againſt the parties concerned? The information, accompanied with clumſy wit, which he pretends to give reſpecting me, I think too inſignificant to demand my attention. His falſhoods and miſrepreſentations through a courſe of years to his correſpondents in Europe, are as notorious as his illicit trade to the French Iſlands, and both are equally reprobated by every honeſt man.

I am, Honourable Sirs,

Your moſt obedient and faithful ſervant,

Jermyn Street,
19th April, 1777. JAMES CAPPER.

Letter from Edward Cotsford, Eſquire,

To the Honourable the Court of Directors of the Engliſh Eaſt-India Company.

GENTLEMEN,

IN conſequence of the reſolution you have lately come to, I may probably be called upon by the Honourable Court to proceed to my ſtation at Fort St. George at a very ſhort notice.

It is a duty I owe to myſelf, and well becoming an honeſt man, to examine now the ground I am to ſtand upon to avoid encountering difficulties beyond my ſtrength hereafter. This, joined to my duty to the Company, as being their immediate ſervant and a member of the Council at Madras, I conſider as authorizing, and even obliging me to take this matter up in a more particular manner than I might be juſtified in doing if not perſonally concerned.

There is but little doubt, I think, that the authority of your government is removed from your Preſident and Council, and reſides in the

Commander of your forces, and is a deſpotiſm of the worſt kind, as having no qualifying ingredients to ſoften and reſtrain it, which States in their natures deſpotic have. It may therefore be called a lawleſs power.

The ſource of this extraordinary event lies deeper than the trivial circumſtance of whether this or that man ſhould be ſent to reſide at Tanjore; that was but little more than a ſpark falling upon matter already ſo inflamable, that nothing but the application was neceſſary for ſetting it in a blaze.

The power of the Nabob, in conſequence of the reduction of his enemies, and through his alliance with the crown of Great Britain, as ſet forth in the treaty of Paris, and his purſuing an intereſt in many important points diametrically oppoſite to that of the Company, added to the taking from your Governor a moſt eſſential part of his executive authority, and veſting it in your *military* Commander in Chief, as you term him, appear to me to be the real cauſes of this alarming revolution.

There was a time when the intereſt of the Nabob and the India Company was one; and I think it will be granted, that the obligations they owe each other from their earlieſt connection to the preſent period, have been mutual and equal; but the ſtate of things is ſo much altered, that the Nabob now overlooks his former ſupporters, and the Company fear the man, who was at once the inſtrument of their proſperity, and the object of their pity.

A Governor, the moſt virtuous and upright, and ſupported with all the power you can legally give him, would find it difficult to do the Company's buſineſs effectually with ſo great a power counteracting him; but with his authority ſo much diminiſhed, he ſhould govern a

community of men like angels, or be ſomething more than man himſelf to ſurmount a difficulty almoſt inſuperable.

The Governor-General and Council in Bengal have approved in very ſtrong terms of the violent act committed upon the perſon of your Governor, and have founded their judgment chiefly upon his having infringed the treaty of Paris, by wounding the independent rights of the Nabob of the Carnatic.

There are two queſtions, the anſwers to which will clear this ſubject of much of its ambiguity: Is the Nabob, *bona fide*, an independent Prince? Has your Preſident in his conduct fulfilled your orders, and attended to the honour and advantage of the India Company? The firſt queſtion I am ſure you can yourſelves reſolve without my aſſiſtance; and the other it is poſſible (to ſome) may require a further elucidation than the documents at preſent in your poſſeſſion can give.

I muſt however take leave to obſerve, that if your Government at Bengal ſhew a diſpoſition to puniſh in ſo violent and illegal a manner what it conſiders as a breach of the treaty of Paris, your officers may ſuppoſe they will be juſtified in giving up all fortreſſes ſituate out of the Company's jaghire, at the requiſition of the Nabob; and to judge from the preſent appearance of things, I think the keeping poſſeſſion muſt depend greatly upon the virtue and integrity of thoſe who have charge of them.

The arguments for ſupporting the Nabob's independence would ſerve well as an oſtenſible colour to a conduct it might be neceſſary to obſerve with reſpect to an enemy, but to uſe them only for weakening your own eſtabliſhment and your influence with the Country Powers is to me unaccountable. I find no difficulty in conceiving that many things may be done by your Governor and Council, highly honourable to themſelves and beneficial to the Company, which may nevertheleſs operate

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ſo as in ſome degree to affect the Nabob's independence; and if the good they can do on one ſide is liable to be conſidered in the ſame degree as faulty and reprehenſible towards the other by their conſtituents, I ſee no path left for a man of honour and integrity to go in.

As I wiſh the Company's proſperity moſt ſincerely, I ſhould be glad to ſee ſuch reſolutions adopted as would effectually re-eſtabliſh the conſtitutional power of your Governor. This only can afford a reaſonable aſſurance to the gentlemen of your Council, that they are ſafe in their perſons and reputation, and may give their opinions freely and without fear in all matters deliberated at the Council Board.

Being myſelf in a ſituation liable to experience the good or ill effect of what you may now determine, what I have ſaid above I humbly offer as a remonſtrance againſt the power unconſtitutionally exerciſed by thoſe holding the adminiſtration of your affairs at Madras, and the evils of which I cannot think, in your reſolutions recently made publick, you have ſo fully provided againſt, as the great importance of the caſe requires.

I ſhall now propoſe four points to your conſideration, the execution of which might greatly forward the re-eſtabliſhment of your affairs on the coaſt of Coromandel.

Firſt, *The Nabob ſhould be prevailed upon to reſide more within the centre of his dominions, by which (independent of the advantages that would follow to the Company) he might be enabled to give more diſpatch to the internal management of his own government.*

As the power of the Nabob is now become a real inconvenience, and you are to encounter it in the beſt way you are able, I think your Governor enters the liſts againſt him upon very unequal terms. He, a deſpotic Prince, having in hands the riches and whole power of his country,

country, your authority only delegated, and veſted in a Governor and his Council, with whom, ſeparately, the Nabob may deſcend to private conferences, for the advancement of his own purpoſes, and when pretending to be the beſt ſupport of your government, obſerving a conduct, poſſibly very reprehenſible, were he amenable to our laws; Gaining early and conſtant information of what paſſes at your Councils, and interfering in your political conduct—Purchaſing all the houſes which are offered to ſale, by which your ſervants may (in ſome degree through neceſſity) be under an obligation to him for houſes to live in—Borrowing money at exorbitant intereſt, and by that means atonce involving the fortunes of your ſervants, and indirectly purchaſing their attention to his intereſt, in order to ſecure their property—Introducing exceſſive luxury into your ſettlement, which may have forwarded the late revolution, as having a tendency to deſtroy order and ſubordination—Preventing the courſe of juſtice, as perſons guilty of crimes may, by taking the Nabob's protection, to be ſecured from puniſhment.

Theſe are ſome of the bad conſequences attending the Nabob's reſidence ſo near the ſeat of your Government, and it does not appear to me that theſe are ſufficient reaſons for his remaining there to counterbalance them.

Second. *The Nabob ought not to rent the Jaghire, it increaſing his influence in the country, and proportionably leſſening your own.* It has *been urged* (though I think the fact may be doubted) that the rent he pays exceeds the revenue he draws from the country; but, admitting it to be ſo, not being ſubject to your control, he may poſſibly oppreſs the country, which a perſon ſubject to your juriſdiction could not do with impunity; ſo that if you receive a little more money, it may be at the expenſe of the people's happineſs and your own future ſecurity. Another very bad effect is, that it aſſiſts greatly in making the Nabob your treaſurer, which is certainly very impolitick.

Third. The Preſident of your Council *ſhould poſſeſs his military authority, as he held it before your regulations to Bengal on that head, in your letter of March 29th, 1774. He ſhould likewiſe have the privilege of convening and adjourning the Council, and putting all queſtions at the Board.*

It does not follow that the Governor, by being the Commander in Chief, can diſpoſe of the army at his pleaſure; for reſiding conſtantly in Madras, as being at the head of the civil authority, the immediate charge of the ſoldiery will be in the hands of another. A rivalſhip might ſubſiſt between the officer commanding and the Governor, but that would rather prevent the latter from acquiring an undue influence in the army, than operate to the Company's detriment. If your Governor had been the expreſs Commander in Chief, and there had been no room for doubting his military authority, an officer would hardly have dared to ſeize his perſon.

It is unneceſſary to ſay that the Commander in Chief, under the Preſident, ſhall have ſuch and ſuch powers, his ſituation naturally gives him all the power he ought to have; and when in the field at the head of the troops, his opinion muſt in general be aſſented to by the Board; or indeed, more properly ſpeaking, cannot be controverted: except he ſhould obſerve a conduct, either through weakneſs or deſign, manifeſtly tending to the detriment of the Company's affairs.

We learn from hiſtory and the experience of former times, that however free a ſtate may be, the power in its diſtant ſettlements and provinces muſt in a greater degree reſide in one man, otherwiſe he might not be able to carry ſuch orders into execution as the publick good might make neceſſary. And as diſtant poſſeſſions cannot be maintained (at leaſt in countries ſubject to a deſpotic government) without a ſtanding military force, the great buſineſs is to draw all the advantages to the State from that force, without ſuffering it to control the laws, and endanger the

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publick liberty. Ancient Rome inveſted her Governors of provinces with the civil, military, and judicial authority; and your Governor at Madras, until 1774, was Preſident of the Council, Commander in Chief of the forces, and Chief Juſtice in the Civil Court. Some temporary oppreſſions to individuals might have been the conſequence, which an appeal to the laws of the kingdom will redreſs, but I have never heard that your eſtabliſhment has been in the leaſt danger from it. If no appeal lay from this government to a ſuperior power, I admit it would be truly deſpotic, but it appears to me, that the ſtrength reſiding in your Governor, is the beſt and only ſecurity to poſſeſſions at ſo great a diſtance.

Fourth. *It is highly neceſſary, that no ſervant of the Company have any intercourſe with the Nabob, but with the privity or through the medium of the Preſident.* This is I know conformable to the orders of the Company, but I underſtand they have been lately voted not to be neceſſary by your ſervants at Madras.

It may perhaps ſeem to ſome, that granting too great a power to a Governor may be diſpenſed with; for my part, being no friend to any thing arbitrary, I ſhall readily allow it, if any thing more efficacious for the public ſecurity can be pointed out; but if not, your dependance muſt be upon the goodneſs of your choice of the perſon executing that great authority, who if he betrays his country, by wantonly or wickedly abandoning your intereſt, ſhould loſe all that he can loſe on earth; and if your powers fall ſhort for inflicting a puniſhment adequate to the crime, you ſhould ſeek redreſs from the legiſlature, as you have already done on the ſubject of your Bengal affairs.

If the power of your Governor will bear dimunition, it would perhaps be more adviſeable to take from him that which he exerciſes as Chief Juſtice, in which there is leſs danger, and is more ſuitable to the ſpirit of our conſtitution, than the depriving him of his military powers.

Much more might be ſaid on this important ſubject and I hope and doubt not it will be fully diſcuſſed at the approaching General Court.

I am,
Gentlemen,
with the greateſt reſpect,
your very devoted,
and obedient ſervant,

New Bond-Street,
April 20th, 1777. EDWARD COTSFORD.

Extracts of Proceedings of the Governor and Council at Fort St. George, in their Publick and Revenue Departments; containing Debates on the propriety of appointing a Chief and Council at Tanjore, and other Subjects on which the Majority have differed in opinion from the Preſident and Minority of the ſaid Council.

Extract of Fort St. George General Conſultations, 28th June, 1776.

THE Right Honourable the Preſident informs the Board, that when he was at Tanjore, the Rajah took frequent occaſions of expreſſing his grateful ſenſe of the Company's generoſity towards him, and appeared ſincerely deſirous of ſtrengthening his connections with them by every means in his power. Amongſt other things he mentioned, that it would be very agreeable to him, if the Company would ſend proper perſons to attempt an inveſtment in his country, where they might be ſure of meeting with every ſupport and aſſiſtance that could be received from his authority.

The Preſident having ſince reflected upon the Rajah's propoſal, is of opinion, that the Company will derive advantage by accepting it, as it will give them an opportunity of extending their inveſtment for Europe, and will afford the moſt eligible means of conveying to this Settlement, ſome part at leaſt of the ſurplus which may ariſe out of the four Lacks

of

of Pagodas, to be paid annually by the Rajah, after defraying the expenſes of the troops to be maintained in his country.

The Preſident further obſerves, that the cloſe connexion which is now formed with the Rajah of Tanjore, opens a new and extenſive branch in the affairs of the Company; that the different intereſts proceeding from that connexion are to be adjuſted and maintained; and all diſputes and miſunderſtandings which may ariſe between the Nabob and the Rajah, or between the Rajah and the Polygars ſituated near Tanjore, muſt be enquired into and ſettled by the particular attention of this Government.

The Preſident conſidering theſe circumſtances, is clearly of opinion, that it will greatly facilitate the meaſures which may be thought neceſſary, in conſequence of our new engagements with the Rajah, if a Chief and Council were appointed to reſide conſtantly at Tanjore; ſuch an eſtabliſhment he thinks will give confidence to the Rajah, and convince him that he is really protected; it will enable us to come more readily at the knowledge of his ſituation, to enquire into and ſettle any differences that may ariſe between him and the Nabob, or between him and the neighbouring Polygars; to convey our ſentiments and inſtructions with greater facility, and upon more certain grounds than by a direct correſpondence with the Rajah, in which, for want of previous information, many explanations might be neceſſary, and much time be loſt before any thing deciſive could be done. The Preſident further adds, that when there is ſo large a ſum as four Lacks of Pagodas to be paid yearly by the Rajah, when there is ſo conſiderable a force to be paid and ſupplied with all kinds of military ſtores, when there are fortifications to be put in repair, and buildings to be erected within the town, he thinks it highly expedient that all theſe ſervices ſhould be performed under the immediate inſpection and control of a Chief and Council, who will keep regular accounts and diaries of their proceedings to be tranſmitted to the Preſidency.

For theſe, and many other reaſons which might be urged, the Preſident is induced to recommend the appointment in the ſtrongeſt terms to the Board; and further, to propoſe the following gentlemen as very proper perſons for the ſtations to which they are named; viz.

Mr. Ruſſell, Chief,

Mr. Edward Frowd, ſecond,

Mr. Gideon Firth, third, and

Mr. William Wynch, fourth.

The orders of the Company, in their ſeparate letter of 12th April, 1775, reſpecting Tanjore, are then read; alſo the letter from the Board to Lord Pigot in the military department, dated 24th April laſt, and the minutes of conſultation in the military department 13th May.

After ſome debate on the ſubject of the Preſident's propoſal, Sir Robert Fletcher deſires to enter the following Minute:

Sir Robert Fletcher's Minute.

Sir Rober Fletcher cannot, upon this ſhort notice, give an opinion on the propriety or impropriety of the plan propoſed by the Preſident, particularly as the various reaſons urged by his Lordſhip appear to merit much ſerious deliberation. His Lordſhip's reaſon however, reſpecting the 4 Lacks of Pagodas for the purpoſe of an inveſtment, Sir Robert Fletcher cannot approve, becauſe the idea is contrary to the Company's poſitive orders, and becauſe it is his clear opinion that the greateſt part of that ſum, if not the whole, ought to be appropriated to the payment of the troops to be raiſed for the defence of the fort and country of Tanjore, and to defray the expenſe of military ſtores, &c. If any part of the ſum ſhall not be ſo appropriated, Sir Robert Fletcher thinks we are bound by the poſitive orders of our Maſters to return ſuch ſurplus to the Rajah of Tanjore; and Sir Robert Fletcher deems it his duty upon this occaſion to declare, that he thinks our preſent eſtabliſhment of the

army

army is by no means ſufficient to defend our poſſeſſions, including the Tanjore fort and country.

Several members, in like manner with Sir Robert Fletcher, expreſſing themſelves unable to form any judgment on the Preſident's propoſal, without having further time to conſider it, Sir Robert Fletcher moves the previous queſtion, which the Preſident would not ſuffer, he conſidering it an innovation.

He further urges the neceſſity of coming to a ſpeedy determination; and amongſt other things obſerves, that eſteeming it a matter of great moment, he had requeſted Mr. Dawſon to favour him with his attendance to-day; but after what Mr. Dawſon had ſaid at the opening of the Council concerning his health, and the preparations he was making for his voyage, he could not with any propriety requeſt his attendance again.

Mr. Dawſon replies, that as a good ſervant of the Company he cannot refuſe his aſſiſtance, when it is eſſential for the Company's intereſt, and he will be ready to come to the Board any future day that may be appointed for taking the Preſident's propoſal into conſideration. The Preſident then recommends, that Monday next be appointed for that purpoſe, which is agreed to.

AT

Fort St. George, 8th July, 1776.

Monday the 8th.

AT A CONSULTATION,

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident,

George Stratton,	Sir Robert Fletcher,
George Dawſon,	Henry Brooke,
Claud Ruſſell,	Alexander Dalrymple,
Charles Floyer,	John Maxwell Stone,
Archdale Palmer,	Francis Jourdan,

George Mackay.

Preſident moves, a Chief and Council be appointed to Tanjore.

THE Right Honourable the Preſident having aſſembled the Council this morning for the purpoſe of determining the queſtion before them, relative to the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore, now moves, that that appointment, as recommended by him in Conſultation the 28th June, may paſs.

The votes of the ſeveral members being taken on the Preſident's motion, are as follows:

Mr. Mackay againſt the motion, for the reaſons contained in the following minute, which he deſires may be entered.

My reaſons for not aſſenting to the Right Honourable the Preſident's motion to appoint Mr. Ruſſell Chief, and Meſſieurs Frowd, Firth, and Wynch, a Council for Tanjore, are, that I think, in the firſt place, a Chief and Council totally unneceſſary in that country, that I think ſuch an appointment contrary to the ſpirit of the Company's orders by the Grenville. Secondly, That if I thought it for the Company's intereſt to ſend a Chief and Council to Tanjore, I ſhould object to Mr.

Ruſſell being appointed, becauſe the Court of Directors have already ordered him on a ſervice which they think very important, I mean the Committee of Circuit, of which Mr. Ruſſell is now Preſident, by Mr. Dawſon's being permitted to go home on account of his health.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan againſt the motion, becauſe he thinks the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore unneceſſary, and inconſiſtent with the ſpirit of the Company's orders.

Mr. Palmer againſt the motion, for the following reaſons, which he delivers in writing:

I do object to the motion, as I do not ſee the advantages that the Preſident mentions will accrue to the Company from this meaſure's being adopted. If his Lordſhip means the eſtabliſhment of an inveſtment, as I conceive he does, it does not appear to me that ſuch can ariſe, as I am of opinion, that was ſuch a meaſure thought proper, no ſtep can be ſo proper as an increaſe of that to the northward. I do further object as I think it cannot meet with the approbation of our Honourable Maſters.

Mr. Stone for the motion, for the reaſons urged by the Preſident.

Mr. Floyer againſt the motion, for the reaſons contained in the following minute entered by him.

1ſt, Becauſe the nomination of a Chief and Council to Tanjore is, in my opinion, directly contrary to the ſpirit, if not the words, of the Honourable Company's commands tranſmitted to us by the Grenville, in the following paragraph of their ſeparate letter, the 12th April, 1775, Par. 7.

" You are however in our name to aſſure the King of Tan-
" jore, that no diminution of his authority over his ſubjects is
" intended by us, and that we will ſeverely puniſh any military officer,
" or Company's ſervant, who ſhall in any reſpect interfere in the affairs
" of his Government; and you are to take eſpecial care that this article
" be punctually fulfilled on the part of the Company."

Secondly, Becauſe I think one of the reaſons urged at the Board, in ſupport of the nomination of the Chief and Council, viz. " That as " the Rajah of Tanjore had ſtipulated to pay annually to the Company " four Lacks of Pagodas for the protection of his country, a ſum " expected to exceed the military diſburſements of the Company for " that purpoſe, the expenditure of a part of the ſurplus, in the pro- " viſion of an inveſtment, would prevent a drain of treaſure from the " Tanjore country," is expreſsly provided againſt in the latter part of the 6th paragraph of the ſaid commands: " And you are likewiſe to " inſiſt upon having an aſſignment of revenues made to the Com- " pany, ſufficient for the maintenance of the ſaid troops, and for " providing military ſtores neceſſary for the defence of the garriſon." And again, in the 8th paragraph, " You are alſo to aſſure the King of " Tanjore, that particular accounts of the expenſe of the garriſon " ſhall be laid before him every three months, or ſo often as he ſhall " require it; that no extravagance ſhall be permitted, nor any im- " proper charge ſhall be allowed in ſuch accounts; and that if the " annual amount thereof ſhall at any time be leſs than the revenues " aſſigned to the Company, the ſurplus of the ſaid revenue ſhall be " faithfully returned to him; but if the expenſe of the garriſon ſhall " exceed the amount of the revenues ſo aſſigned, then the King of " Tanjore ſhall make good the deficiency."

In the letter from the King of Tanjore to the Preſident, bearing date the 12th April laſt, are the following words:

" In

" In the preſent condition of my country, the placing a garriſon of " Engliſh troops in the Fort and City of Tanjore is exceedingly " neceſſary; but beſides this garriſon, if the Company will allow more " troops alſo for the protection of my whole country, this alſo will be " highly proper. If, by the favour of Heaven, this be put in execu- " tion, neither I nor any of my family will need to apprehend that the " calamities of war will fall upon this country again; and if the " Company will only favour me thus far, I will with pleaſure aſſign " them, out of my revenues, the ſum of four Lacks of Pagodas per " annum for their military expenſes; the mode of payment as " follows: November, 20,000, December, 40,000, January, 40,000, " February, 100,000, March, 100,000, April, 100,000."

From the words of the Rajah in the foregoing paragraph, where, in repreſenting the propriety of being allowed more troops for the protection of his whole country, he ſays, " And if the Company will " only favour me thus far, I will with pleaſure aſſign them, &c." It ſhould appear, that in conſideration of the additional number of troops he requires for the protection of his whole country, the Rajah has been induced to offer ſo handſome an aſſignment to the Company as four Lacks of Pagodas for their military diſburſements; and the Council aſſent to the requiſition, in the reply of the Right Honourable the Preſident, dated the 16th May enſuing, to the Rajah's letter, in which are the following words:

" With the greateſt ſatisfaction I tell you, that on my arrival here " I found every gentleman of the Council was of opinion with me, " that the requeſt you were pleaſed to make in your letter of the " 12th of April ſhall be complied with, viz. that your Fort ſhall be " garriſoned by the Company's troops, and your country protected by " them likewiſe."

In the courſe of my enquiries into this circumſtance, I do not find that the number of Company's troops does now exceed the number employed in the Rajah's country at the time he made this requiſition: any expected ſurplus from the ſaid aſſignment ſhould therefore, in my opinion, be appropriated to the maintenance of any additional troops which may be ſent into the Country of Tanjore, in compliance with the requiſition of the Rajah, in preference to ſuch ſurplus being employed in the proviſion of an inveſtment. And here I cannot help obſerving, that the proſpect of ſurplus is yet very diſtant. The Company's troops in the Tanjore Kingdom, and all military diſburſements whatſoever, muſt be maintained from the Company's Treaſury from the month of April laſt to November following, when we ſhall have an account of ſeven months arrears to ſettle with the Rajah; and in the three ſucceeding months the Company are to receive from him only one Lack of Pagodas, and the full amount of the aſſignment not till April next, by three equal monthly payments; a period within three months of the time we might expect the orders of our Honourable Maſters in reply to our intended diſpatches by the Grenville as well reſpecting the appropriation of any ſurplus that may ariſe from the King of Tanjore's aſſignment, as the Preſident's recommendation of a Chief and Council to Tanjore.

Thirdly, Becauſe I think the reſidence of an Engliſh Chief and Council, in any country which does not belong to the Company, can have no authority; is not only unprecedented, but improper; but more particularly ſo, if ſuch reſidence, as is propoſed, is in the Fort of Tanjore, becauſe I apprehend it muſt neceſſarily diminiſh the authority and conſequence of the Rajah over his own ſubjects.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Dalrymple for the motion.

Mr. Ruſſell for the motion, as he thinks the meaſure neceſſary.

Mr.

Mr. Jourdan here deſires it may be minuted, that as Mr. Ruſſell is recommended by the Preſident to fill the ſtation of Chief in the propoſed appointment, he thinks it irregular and improper that he ſhould give a vote on the preſent queſtion.

Mr. Brooke againſt the motion. He further adds, that in his opinion it is improper for a member of the Board to give a vote in appointing himſelf to any ſtation, which is making him judge in his own cauſe, and that it ſhould not be regarded as a precedent.

Mr. Dawſon for the motion, becauſe, from the difficulties this Government labours under at preſent, he thinks the propoſed appointment neceſſary; and however it may deviate from the Company's orders, he flatters himſelf the neceſſity will juſtify the proceeding.

Sir Robert Fletcher againſt the motion, for the reaſons contained in the following minute delivered in by him:

I think the propoſed appointment directly contrary to the ſpirit of the Company's orders; *I think thoſe orders are wiſe orders*; nor do I ſee a poſſibility of an eſtabliſhment of a Chief and Council within the Fort of Tanjore, without that interference with the Rajah's government which is abſolutely forbid by our Maſters. If it were neceſſary to carry on an inveſtment in the Tanjore country, which I do not admit, the country about Devecota, which was offered by the Rajah to the Company, and refuſed by us, appears to me to be the proper ſeat of a Chief and Council for the purpoſe of an inveſtment. With reſpect to the difference between an inveſtment in the Tanjore country and the northern inveſtment, as well as with reſpect to the other reaſons urged in favour of the plan, I will explain myſelf further in writing for the information of our Maſters.

Mr. Stratton againſt the motion, for the following reaſons:

I cannot agree with the Right Honourable the Preſident in the expediency of the appointment he propoſes of a Chief and Council; for even admitting that an inveſtment could be carried on at Tanjore on behalf of the Company, (of which I have my doubts) I think it would be very improper to do ſo, being of opinion, that the four Lacks of Pagodas promiſed annually to be paid by the Rajah of Tanjore, ſhould be kept for the purpoſe for which it was given, that of paying a force for the protection of his country; the Rajah having expreſsly ſaid, in his letto the Preſident, that he did with pleaſure aſſign the Company out of his revenues the ſum of four Lacks of Pagodas per annum for the military expenſes; and in another part of his letter the Rajah ſays, "If the Com-"pany will allow ſome more troops for the protection of my whole coun-"try, this alſo would be very proper." From the foregoing this appearing to be a voluntary offer on the Rajah's part was my reaſon for accepting it. If the force now paid by the Company and the Nabob ſhould be thought ſufficient for the protection both of the Carnatic and the Tanjore country, I am of opinion, in this caſe, the ſurplus of what may remain to the Rajah's credit be reſerved in the Treaſury, that in caſe of troubles he be charged in proportion as theſe revenues bear to that of the Carnatic; for I cannot think that one country can be attacked or invaded without the other.

Having thus given my opinion in what manner the ſum given by the Rajah ſhould be appropriated, it is a duty incumbent on me to aſſign my reaſons againſt the propoſed appointment of a Chief and Council.

From the ſpirit of the Company's orders by the Grenville they abſolutely forbid it, and, in my opinion, they will never approve of a Chief and Council being appointed to any ſettlemement but what ſolely belongs to them.

2d. Admitting that ſuch an appointment was conſonant to their orders, I cannot ſee the uſe of it; for a Paymaſter can ſurely pay the troops there,

there, as in the Nabob's garriſons. His accounts are checked by the Commandant of the garriſon, and monthly tranſmitted here. The repairs of the fort are conducted by a Company's engineer agreeably to their orders; and as the Paymaſter pays the Cooleys, &c. they are checks on each other. It cannot be otherwiſe if a Chief and Council were there; nor can the protection of the fort reſt on them, but on the officer commanding, who is the proper judge what ſtores and proviſions are neceſſary for it's defence.

3d. Should the Rajah requeſt the aid of a military force to quell any troubles, this power, in my opinion, ſhould not be lodged in a Chief and Council, nor in the military officer; for when ſuch aid is requeſted, it is his duty firſt to have the ſanction of the Government (which can be given him in a ſhort time) before he grants it; nor ought this military officer, in any reſpect, to interfere in diſputes that may happen between the Nabob and the Rajah, but fully to repreſent the ſame, that it may be determined by this Government.

The Preſident, after declaring himſelf for the motion, expreſſes his concern, that he cannot have the concurrence of the Board in carrying into execution a meaſure, which he ſtill thinks eſſentially neceſſary for the reaſons he has already given. That he does not perceive the force of any of the objections which have been urged againſt it; nevertheleſs, as a majority of the Board have given their opinion on that ſide of the queſtion, by which the propoſed appointment is rejected, he ſhall acquieſce in that determination until the pleaſure of the Court of Directors can be known.

Carried againſt the motion.

The Right Honourable the Preſident further obſerves, that ſince the meaſure recommended by him cannot at preſent take place, he hopes the Board will have no objection to the appointment of a Reſident at Tanjore, who may in part be able to fulfil the purpoſes he had in view

Preſident moves, That Mr. Ruſſell be appointed Reſident at Tanjore.

from the appointment of a Chief and Council. He then moves, that Mr. Ruſſell be appointed Reſident at Tanjore.

Mr. Mackay is againſt the motion; becauſe he thinks the ſame reaſons which he has already given with reſpect to Mr. Ruſſell, will hold good againſt his going Reſident to Tanjore; he thinks that appointment alſo unneceſſary, becauſe all the Company's buſineſs with the Rajah may be tranſacted through the military officer commanding in his country, the Company's civil ſervant, who ſhall be appointed Paymaſter at Tanjore, and the Rajah's Vackeel at this place.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan againſt the motion.

Mr. Palmer againſt the motion.

Mr. Stone for the motion.

Mr. Floyer againſt it.

Mr. Dalrymple for it.

Mr. Ruſſell for it.

Mr. Brooke againſt it.

Mr. Dawſon for it.

Sir Robert Fletcher againſt it, becauſe he thinks the military officer is the proper perſon to execute all the duties propoſed for the Reſident, excepting that of inveſtment, which, he has already ſaid, he thinks unneceſſary.

Mr. Stratton for the motion.

The Preſident for the motion.

The numbers being equally divided upon this queſtion, it is reſolved, by the caſting voice of the Preſident, that Mr. Ruſſell be appointed Reſident at Tanjore. Carried for the motion.

Mr. Dawſon now takes his final leave of the Board. Mr. Dawſon takes leave of the Board.

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

Extract of Fort St. George Revenue Conſultations, 28th June, 1776.

SIR Robert Fletcher being of opinion, that the time limited by the Company has been long expired for enforcing their commands reſpecting the Committee of Circuit, he now begs leave to record this his opinion, that he may not in future be in any degree reſponſible or ſubject to blame, either for diſobedience or neglect of thoſe important orders. Minute of Sir Robert Fletcher reſpecting the Committee of Circuit.

Fort St. George, 26th July, 1776.

Revenue department.

AT A CONSULTATION.

PRESENT,

Friday the 26th.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident.

George Stratton	General Sir Robert Fletcher
Henry Brooke	Claud Ruſſell
Alexander Dalrymple	Charles Floyer
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

Mr. Jourdan informs the Board, that he has delivered a minute to the Secretary, in which there is a motion reſpecting the Committee of Circuit. Mr. Mackay deſires to ſecond the motion. The minute is then read as follows:

Mr. Jourdan's minute reſpecting the Committee of Circuit.

The Court of Directors ſay, that when the buſineſs of Tanjore ſhall be finally ſettled, the Committee of Circuit ſhall be ordered upon that ſervice. When they gave thoſe orders, it is very probable they expected reſiſtance on the part of the Nabob; for they direct us to apply to the Gentlemen at Bengal, if neceſſary, and direct them, if applied to, to co-operate in the carrying of their orders relative to Tanjore into execution. This appears alſo from the anxious manner in which they expreſs themſelves on that ſubject by the Royal Henry, and therefore it was conſiſtent and judicious in the Court of Directors to order, that a buſineſs, from which the moſt important conſequences might reſult, ſhould be conducted by as many members of the Board as could be ſpared from the other departments. But the Nabob, although he has objected to the reſtitution of the country, has not in any inſtance reſiſted, and the Rajah is in poſſeſſion of the whole country Hanamantagoody excepted; of this the Board have written to the Nabob, and although he has claimed it as part of the Marawar country, yet

when

when he conſiders what has been ſaid upon that ſubject, it is to be hoped he will judge proper that it be reſtored.

This however is not of much importance; for were he to object as having been illegally taken from the Marawar, there can be no doubt but that both parties would willingly ſubmit this to the deciſion of the Company; to which may be added, that the Rajah has intruſted to the Company the defence of his country, and ſtipulated an ample ſum for that purpoſe. The claims of Mr. Benfield have been brought before the Board; the Circar ſhare of the crop has been adjudged to the Nabob, and the mortgages of courſe are admitted. Nothing remains then but to aſcertain what the Rajah has received, and to ſettle ſuch terms of payment as may be juſt.

I have been thus particular on theſe ſubjects, as whenever the Circuit has been mentioned, the Tanjore buſineſs has been urged againſt it. I know of no circumſtance, in the preſent ſituation of our affairs, that can juſtify the longer delay in carrying the orders of the Company for the Circuit into execution; on the contrary, the rents of ſome of the farms are continued for one year, and the mode tends evidently to the diſtreſs of the inhabitants in thoſe diſtricts. The Zemindaries likewiſe muſt be managed in the ſame manner. The Zemindar will be diſcouraged from improvement in the apprehenſion of increaſe of tribute; and this mode, injurious as it may be, cannot be altered until the Committee obtain full and perfect information of the real value of the lands. The Circars are capable of great improvement; the ſoil in moſt parts is rich; two very conſiderable rivers, and ſome ſmaller ones run through them. The inhabitants of the countries under Bazalet Jung and Nizam Ally Cawn are greatly oppreſſed, and with proper encouragement many might be brought to reſide with us. The foreſts to the weſtward produce Teak and other valuable woods; they have mines which might furniſh iron for many uſeful purpoſes; ſaltpetre is made on the borders of the Guntoor Circar; the ſugar canes

grow luxuriantly in the Rajahmundry Circar; and over the whole country are weavers in great numbers.

To ſecure to the inhabitants their juſt rights from their Lords and from each other, by eſtabliſhing ſome mode of obtaining juſtice; to cultivate the deſerted and waſte lands; to reſtore a country almoſt depopulated by frequent wars and other calamities; to apply the ſuperfluous waters of the Guadivery, the Kiſtna, and other rivers, to the purpoſes of cultivation; and, by increaſing the quantity of proviſions, to improve the manufactures and encourage the workman. Theſe are objects worthy of Government, and which, if well attended to, will give confidence, wealth, and happineſs to the people, and increaſe of revenue to the Government; and theſe are the objects intruſted to the care of the Committee. For all theſe reaſons ſhould be ordered upon the Circuit, and I therefore move, that according to thoſe orders they be immediately ſent upon it.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

The foregoing minute concluding with a motion, That the Committee of Circuit do immediately proceed upon their enquiries, Mr. Mackay deſires leave to ſecond it.

The Right Honourable the Preſident, previous to putting the queſtion, obſerves to the Board, that in his opinion there are many points of great conſequence that remain to be ſettled, in which he ſhould be glad to have the aſſiſtance of as many of the members as poſſible. That the orders of the Company are, that the Committee of Circuit ſhall not proceed until the affairs reſpecting Tanjore ſhall have been accommodated and finally adjuſted; and thoſe affairs being ſtill unſettled, he thinks by the Company's orders the Committee ought not yet to proceed, and therefore he cannot recommend the meaſure.

The

The Preſident then puts the queſtion.

Mr. Mackay for the motion.

Mr. Jourdan for the motion.

Mr. Palmer for the motion, with the following minute :

As Committee of Circuit appears to be a buſineſs the Court of Directors ſeem to have very much at heart, from the information they expect from it, relating to points ſo very eſſential to their affairs, and as I am likewiſe apprehenſive that much benefit will ariſe from their proceeding, I am of opinion that there ſhould be no longer delay in their ſetting out.

Mr. Stone againſt the motion, as the Company's orders reſpecting Tanjore are not, in his opinion accompliſhed, there being many material matters remaining unadjuſted.

Mr. Floyer concurs entirely with Mr. Jourdan in the ſentiments he has delivered in his minute, and he thinks, if the Board were longer to defer the departure of the Committee of Circuit, they would diſobey the poſitive orders of the Court of Directors; for which reaſon, and for thoſe expreſſed in Mr. Jourdan's minute, he is for the motion.

Mr. Dalrymple againſt the motion, as the Preſident has declared it to be his opinion, that the Committee of Circuit cannot at this time proceed to the Northern Circars conſiſtent with the Company's orders, which require " Affairs reſpecting Tanjore to be accommodated and finally ad- " juſted ;" but he thinks the Committee may proceed to execute their truſt in the Jaghire lands, where the members can attend any urgent call.

Mr. Ruſſell againſt the motion, for the reaſons given by Mr. Dalrymple.

Mr. Brooke for the motion.

Sir Robert Fletcher for the motion, becauſe he thinks the buſineſs of the Committee of the firſt importance to the Company; and he is clearly of opinion, that not any thing remains to be ſettled reſpecting Tanjore, which can by any conſtruction come within the letter or meaning of the Company's orders regarding the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Stratton for the motion.

Preſident againſt it.

Carried for the queſtion, by a majority of ſeven to four.

Preſident. As Mr. Jourdan has paid ſo much attention to the Company's orders reſpecting the Committee of Circuit, and thinking it of conſequence that it ſhould proceed immediately, the Preſident recommends him to fill up the vacancy occaſioned by the departure of Mr. Dawſon.

Mr. Jourdan thereupon informs the Board, that ſince he has been in the ſervice he has taken his tour of duty at Manilha, Cuddalore, and Mazulipatam, and he hopes therefore the Board will be pleaſed to permit him to decline the honour intended him by the Right Honourable the Preſident.

The queſtion being then put, Whether Mr. Jourdan ſhall proceed on the Committee in the room of Mr. Dawſon? The votes of the members are taken as follow:

Mr.

Mr. Mackay againſt the motion.

Mr. Jourdan obſerves, that ſince it has been reſolved that a member may vote in his own cauſe, he ſhall in the preſent caſe give his voice againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Palmer againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Stone againſt the queſtion, as Mr. Jourdan himſelf does not wiſh to proceed on the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Floyer. Whenever any member of the Circuit ſhall aſſign reaſons for not proceeding on that duty which may appear ſatisfactory to him, and ſo far as he deems correſpondent with his duty to the Court of Directors, he ſhall ever be ready to give his aſſent. The reaſons aſſigned by Mr. Jourdan appearing ſo to him, he declares his vote againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Dalrymple for the queſtion, becauſe he thinks it the duty of every member to proceed on ſuch ſervice as the Preſident recommends to be for the intereſt of the Company; and becauſe in his opinion the reaſons aſſigned by Mr. Jourdan are not ſufficient to excuſe him, as he thinks him a man of buſineſs, and therefore a very proper perſon to be a member of the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Ruſſell for the queſtion.

Mr. Brooke againſt the queſtion.

Sir Robert Fletcher obſerves, that he ſhould be very glad to have Mr. Jourdan's abilities employed on the Committee of Circuit; but in juſtice to Mr. Jourdan, he cannot but excuſe him for the reaſons which he has aſſigned, and therefore he is againſt the queſtion.

M. Stratton againſt the queſtion, for the ſame reaſons.

Preſident for the queſtion.

Carried againſt the queſtion, by a majority of eight to three.

Agreed to adjourn until Monday morning.

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

Fort St. George, 29th July, 1776.

Revenue Department.

AT A CONSULTATION.

PRESENT,

Monday, the 29th July.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident.

George Stratton	General Sir Robert Fletcher
Henry Brooke	Claud Ruſſell
Alexander Dalrymple	Charles Floyer
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

Minutes of laſt Conſultation read.

Mr. Mackay delivers in the following letter, which is read :

To

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Letter from Mr. Mackay, requeſting to be relieved from his appointment as a Member of the Committee of Circuit.

AS the Court of Directors have done me the honour to include my name in the Committee of Circuit for the Northern Circars, I ſhould think myſelf wanting in duty, if I did not expreſs the grateful ſenſe I have of this mark of their favour; at the ſame time I eſteem it equally my duty to inform the Board, that in my own ideas I cannot with propriety, or with hopes of being ſo uſeful to the Company as I could wiſh, undertake a truſt of ſuch importance, when I know it is impoſſible for me to take an active part in the buſineſs; I ſay this, becauſe my time of life at the age of near ſixty, and after having ſuffered much fatigue with the army in the field, I hope I ſhall ſtand excuſed in the opinion of our Honourable Maſters, and of the Board, if I requeſt to be indulged with remaining at the Preſidency, where, to the utmoſt of my ſtrength and abilities, I ſhall always endeavour to do my duty to the Company.

However, after ſaying thus much as the reſult of what I know and feel, I ſhall chearfully ſubmit myſelf to the determination of the Board, to diſpoſe of me as they may ſee proper.

And I remain moſt reſpectfully,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient

And moſt humble ſervant,

GEORGE MACKAY.

Fort St. George,
29th July, 1776.

The Right Honourable the Preſident obſerves to the Board, that he is himſelf convinced that the Court of Directors never expected a ſervant to undertake a ſervice of fatigue, which he is perſuaded his conſtitution will not enable him to perform; and underſtanding Mr. Mackay to be of this opinion with reſpect to himſelf, the Preſident doubts not but the Board will comply with his requeſt.

Mr. Jourdan conſidering what has been urged by Mr. Mackay, particularly his time of life, he thinks his ſervices on the Circuit ought to be diſpenſed with.

Mr. Palmer agrees in opinion with Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Stone agrees to Mr. Mackay's requeſt, for the reaſons urged by the Preſident.

Mr. Floyer is of opinion that Mr. Mackay ſhould be excuſed, and enters the following minute on the ſubject:

The reaſons ſet forth by Mr. Mackay, in his letter to the Board, for requeſting to be excuſed the duties of a Member of the Committee of Circuit, are ſuch as, in my opinion, juſtly merit an indulgence from this Board; I therefore think he ſhould be excuſed, and hope this my opinion will be deemed conformable to the declaration made in my minute of the 26th inſtant, on a ſimilar occaſion reſpecting Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Dalrymple aſſents to Mr. Mackay's requeſt, for the reaſons aſſigned by the Preſident.

Mr. Ruſſell aſſents to Mr. Mackay's requeſt, for the ſame reaſons.

Mr. Brooke aſſents to Mr. Mackay's requeſt, for the reaſons aſſigned in his letter and by the Preſident.

Sir Robert Fletcher agrees to excuſe Mr. Mackay on account of his great age, but he does not admit that Mr. Mackay is to be the only judge whether or not he can perform the ſervice.

Mr. Stratton thinks Mr. Mackay ſhould be excuſed, being perſuaded, from his advanced age, that he cannot bear the fatigues attending the duty of a Member of the Committee of Circuit.

Reſolved unanimouſly, That Mr. Mackay be excuſed from proceeding on the Circuit.

Reſolved accordingly.

The Board taking into conſideration in what manner the two vacancies in the Committee of Circuit ſhall be filled up, and Mr. Stone being mentioned by ſome of the Members as a proper perſon for that ſervice, the Right Honourable the Preſident expreſſes his hope that the Board will not think of Mr. Stone on this occaſion: that Mr. Stone, ever ſince his arrival in the country, has always been employed in the ſettlement; that he was ten years in office as Secretary to the Military Department, part of which time was in the Preſident's former Government, when he found Mr. Stone's ſervices very uſeful to him, both in his official and private capacity; that he has experienced the ſame ready and chearful aſſiſtance from that Gentleman during his preſent Government; and being perſuaded that his long official experience, and knowledge of the Company's affairs, will make him more uſeful at the Preſidency than if he were employed on the Circuit, he flatters himſelf the Board will diſpenſe with his going upon that ſervice.

Agreed, at the requeſt of the Preſident, and for the reaſons urged by him, that Mr. Stone be excuſed from going on the Circuit.

Mr. Dalrymple reads the following minute:

Minute of Mr. Dalrymple reſpecting the Circuit.

The buſineſs for which the Committee of Circuit are appointed, is

——To

——To aſcertain, with all poſſible exactneſs, the produce of the country——

The number of inhabitants—

State of manufactures—

Fortified places—

Groſs amount of the revenues—

Articles from which they ariſe—

Mode by which they are collected—

Specific proportion uſually received by the Rajah or Zemindar,

And what cuſtom or uſage has allotted to the Cultivator.

What ſecurity the native has for his property.

What Courts of Juſtice.

How far ſimilar regulations to thoſe lately eſtabliſhed in Bengal may be introduced with propriety in the Northern Circars.

Aſcertain the ſtrength of each Rajah or Zemindar—

Expenſe of his troops, &c.—

The means of defraying thoſe expenſes—

The number of regular Seapoys neceſſary to maintain.

The Company expreſs an intention, that every military man in the Circars to be paid by the Company.

And that the Committee of Circuit are afterwards to proceed to let the lands.

That

That branch of the Committee's duty which depends upon enquiry can ſcarcely be effected by a Committee, at leaſt it can be much more effectually and expeditiouſly done by a ſingle perſon, with the aſſiſtance of junior ſervants; and when the ſeveral reports are made to the Board, the Committee then proceeding conjointly to let the lands, may on the ſpot examine each report, to ſee that it is complete and exact.

By this method, each perſon of the Committee will naturally be ſtimulated to diſtinguiſh himſelf, by the manner in which he executes his truſt; and being left to execute it in the mode he thinks beſt, it will be done more completely, as well as more expeditiouſly, than if the whole Committee act in conjunction.

Mr. Floyer offers himſelf as a Member of the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Floyer ſeeing the difficulties which the Board are under in filling up the vacancies in the Committee of Circuit, readily offers his ſervice upon this occaſion, obſerving only, that for want of local knowledge, he does not think himſelf at preſent competent to do the duties of a member of the Committee; but if the Board will permit him to remain at Maſulipatam, (where he has been appointed Chief by the Honourable Court of Directors, and of which Settlement he has not yet taken charge) until he ſhall have acquired that local knowledge ſo neceſſary in a Chief for the information of the Committee of Circuit, he will, after having obtained ſuch neceſſary information, readily join the Committee, and go with them in their enquiries.

Agreed unanimouſly, That Mr. Floyer be one of the Committee of Circuit, and that he be permitted to remain at Maſulipatam, ſo long as he ſhall find it convenient for the above purpoſes.

Sir Robert Fletcher, Mr. Jourdan, and Mr. Mackay, having given an opinion heretofore, that Chiefs ought not to be appointed members of the Committee of Circuit, but the majority determining contrary to

that opinion, they think themſelves at liberty to aſſent to Mr. Floyer's being of the Committee of Circuit.

One vacancy in the Committee remaining ſtill to be filled up, and Mr. Lathom, the Chief of Cuddalore, being propoſed as a proper perſon, it is moved that he be appointed a member. The queſtion being accordingly put by the Right Honourable the Preſident—

Mr. Mackay for the queſtion.

Mr. Jourdan for it.

Mr. Palmer for it.

Mr. Stone for it, ſuppoſing it will be agreeable to Mr. Lathom.

Mr. Floyer for it.

Mr. Dalrymple and Mr. Ruſſell for it, thinking Mr. Lathom a proper perſon, and thinking it will be agreeable to him.

Mr. Brooke againſt it, and delivers the following minute:

I give my negative to the appointing Mr. Lathom on the Committee of Circuit, becauſe I think it improper to call the Chief of Cuddalore to proceed to the Northern Circars, where he has had no opportunity of acquiring any knowledge in the buſineſs on which that Committee is ordered; whereas the Chief of Ganjam, by his reſidence there, may have acquired ſuch knowledge, as might be of material ſervice in inveſtigating the ſeveral matters recommended by the Company; and becauſe the Chiefs of Vizagapatam and Maſulipatam having been appointed members of that Committee, he may be called before them (though his juniors in the ſervice) without having a ſeat with them, which I think is an indignity, though I think this Board never meant that any ſhould be offered him.

Reſolved

Reſolved accordingly, That Mr. Lathom be appointed a member of the Committee of Circuit, with permiſſion to retain the Chiefſhip of Cuddalore; that he be adviſed of his appointment, and deſired to repair to the Preſidency with all convenient expedition.

Agreed to meet again on Thurſday next on the buſineſs of the Committee of Circuit.

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan.
Geo. Mackay.

29. Received by Tappies general letter from Ganjam, dated the 13th inſtant; one from Vizagapatam, dated the 18th inſtant; and one from Cuddalore, dated the 26th inſtant.

Received by Tappies general letter from Maſulipatam, dated the 25th inſtant.

Fort

Revenue department.

Thurſday the 1ſt.

Fort St. George, 1ſt Auguſt, 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
Henry Brooke	Claud Ruſſell
Alexander Dalrymple	Charles Floyer
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
*Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

Minutes of laſt Conſultation read.

THE Right Honourable the Preſident lays before the Board the following minute, which is read:

The Preſident obſerving to the Board, that the occaſion of their now aſſembling is in conſequence of the reſolution of the laſt Council, that they ſhould this day take under conſideration the departure of the Committee of Circuit; and having, upon a former day, repreſented that he thought the affairs of Tanjore far from being finally adjuſted, he continues of opinion that the Committee ought not at this time to proceed on the Circuit.

The Preſident maintains, that there are many very great abuſes at the Preſidency, in the inveſtigation of which he thinks the extraordinary diligence and application of Mr. Dalrymple is eſſentially neceſſary to him, and theſe require to be fully examined into and regulated, before the members of the Council proceed upon a buſineſs which will take years to execute. Notwithſtanding which, the Preſident, convinced of the infinite importance of the Jaghire, has no objection to the

Committee of Circuit going upon an enquiry into the ſtate thereof, which is a ſervice he hopes may be performed in a few months, with the aſſiſtance of the examination Mr. Barnard has already made.

The Preſident further obſerves, that he has a volume of complaints to lay before the Committee; that he had many made to him on his late journey; and the laſt letter from the Nabob, deſiring that orders of government may be made public, which orders in fact would be underſtood to diſcourage and forbid complaints being brought to the Preſidency, ſtrengthens him the more in his opinion that thoſe complaints require their firſt attention.

The Preſident hopes that the reaſons aſſigned by Mr. Mackay do not extend to a ſervice of ſo ſhort a duration, and ſo near the Preſidency, as the Jaghire; and therefore, as the Court of Directors have been pleaſed to name him, the Preſident recommends that he be a member of the Committee on this expedition into the Jaghire, and more particularly as Mr. Floyer will depart ſoon for Maſulipatam, and Mr. Ruſſell is nominated, by the reſolution of Council of the 8th July, to be Reſident at Tanjore, on which ſervice the Preſident thinks it abſolutely neceſſary for the Company's intereſt that he ſhould forthwith proceed; and if any obſtacle is made to his departure, he, the Preſident, takes this occaſion formally to proteſt againſt all conſequences which may enſue.

The above minute having been read, the Right Honourable the Preſident deſires that the laſt letter from the Nabob, to which he has referred in the ſaid minute, may be alſo read, which is done as follows:

From the Nabob, dated 16th July, 1776, received ditto.

I UNDERSTAND that ſome people, who wiſh to make differences between me and the Company, have encouraged the Ryots in the Jaghire to make complaints againſt me. The former Governors and Council of

Madras conſented that the ſhares of the crop due to the reſpective inhabitants ſhould be ſettled according to the uſages eſtabliſhed by Saadut Ulla Cawn. I have ever recommended to my Aumils to attend to theſe uſages, and allow the Choutrams and Enams granted by former Soubahs. Some of the Ryots, partly out of their own malicious diſpoſition, and partly inſtigated and encouraged by others, are not content with the ſhares to which they have a right, by the uſages eſtabliſhed in Saadut Ulla Cawn's time, but inſiſt upon more than their due: as their demands are not founded upon juſtice, and only tend to throw confuſion into the mode of collecting the rents, upon which every thing depends, I therefore beg leave to recommend to you, that you will order notice to be given by public advertiſements to all the Ryots and inhabitants of the Company's Jaghire, that the Cultivators ſhall receive the ſhares due to them, as eſtabliſhed in Saadut Ulla Cawn's time, and that free poſſeſſion of all Choutrams and Enams granted by former Soubahs ſhall be allowed. That if any Ryot ſhall demand more than is due to him by the above-mentioned uſages, he ſhall not receive encouragement or protection from the Engliſh. This will put a ſtop to all irregularities in the Government and cultivation of the lands, which will tend to the Company's advantage.

What can I ſay more?

He then moves, that the Committee of Circuit ſhall firſt proceed to the inveſtigation of the Jaghire; and the queſtion being put—

Mr. Mackay againſt the queſtion, as he is clearly of opinion the Court of Directors, in their orders by the Grenville, mean that the Northern Circars ſhall be inveſtigated by the Committee of Circuit before the Jaghire.

Mr. Jourdan againſt the queſtion, for the reaſons contained in the following minute:

As

As the abuſes, of which the Right Honourable the Preſident ſpeaks, are not ſpecified, I can only ſay, that in my opinion the Preſident ought to lay them before the Board; and that the members who will remain here after the Gentlemen appointed of the Circuit may ſet out, will be competent to the inveſtigation of any abuſes that may exiſt. The material parts of the Tanjore buſineſs I think are concluded. The Nabob deſires that we order notice to be given, that the Ryots and inhabitants ſhall receive the ſhares eſtabliſhed in Saadut Ulla Cawn's time.—That all Choutrams and Enams granted by former Soubahs ſhall be allowed, and that if any Ryot ſhall demand more than is due to him, he ſhall not receive encouragement and protection from the Engliſh; all which, I think, may be done in terms that will not preclude the injured from complaining. The members of the Committee of Revenue may, in the abſence of the Committee of Circuit, receive and examine the accounts of the Trepaſſore, &c. diſtricts collected by Mr. Barnard; and I therefore am againſt the queſtion.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer againſt the queſtion, as he thinks the ſpirit of the Company's orders is, that the Northern Circars ſhall be firſt inveſtigated by the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Stone obſerves, that he has already given his opinion, that the departure of the Committee of Circuit ſhould be delayed for ſome time, as it appeared to him there were many important points reſpecting Tanjore remaining to be adjuſted; but it having been determined by the Board that the Committee ſhall proceed immediately, he thinks they ſhould make the Jaghire the firſt object of their enquiry, as they may on any emergency be called to the Preſidency at a ſhort notice; he is therefore for the queſtion.

Mr.

Mr. Floyer obſerves, that he has conſidered with due attention the ſubject of the Right Honourable the Preſident's Minute, and confeſſes he does not ſee reaſons ſufficient to induce him to deviate from what he thinks the poſitive orders of the Court of Directors—that the Committee of Circuit ſhould firſt proceed to the Circars, where he is of opinion the duties of the Committee are firſt and moſt eſſentially required; he is therefore againſt the queſtion, for the above and other reaſons, which he ſhall fully aſſign in a minute hereafter.

Mr. Dalrymple for the queſtion, and gives his reaſons in the following minute:

The Nabob having not given in any application for continuing to rent the Trepaſſore, &c. diſtricts, and the term for his laſt agreement being now expired, I think the Jaghire is at preſent virtually under the charge of the Committee of Circuit; and although I do not mean to ſay, that in caſe the Nabob ſhould now make application for a continuation of this farm for the enſuing year, that his Highneſs's application ſhould be rejected, becauſe not given in before this time; yet, if a further agreement is made with him, the Company's orders are, "That this agreement with the Nabob ſhall be made for *one* year only; and that it muſt be an expreſs condition in ſuch agreement, that the Committee of Circuit ſhall be at full liberty to explore the country, and to aſcertain the real produce and revenues thereof, in the manner deſcribed in their inſtructions reſpecting the Northern Circars;" which condition would be rendered void if the Committee were firſt to be ordered to the Northern Circars, as it is impoſſible for them to execute their duty there in *one* year. And I am convinced, not only from what I have heard, but from what I have ſeen, that the Jaghire is capable of very great improvement, and that the inhabitants ſuffer great oppreſſion.

Mr. Ruſſell for the queſtion, and gives his reaſons in the following minute:

I am for the queſtion for the reaſons aſſigned by the Preſident, and becauſe I think the Jaghire is of the firſt importance to the Company, on account of it's vicinity to the preſidency as well as revenue, and becauſe until the inveſtigation is made, the lands cannot be let on long leaſes, which is abſolutely neceſſary, to relieve them from the decayed ſtate which they are ſaid to have fallen into under the Nabob's management on leaſes from year to year.

Mr. Brooke obſerves, that he is unhappy in differing from the Preſident in the preſent caſe, but he thinks the inveſtigation of the Circars an object of much more importance than the Jaghire, as well as that the Company's orders have ſo particularly and ſtrongly recommended it. For theſe reaſons, and thoſe aſſigned by Mr. Jourdan, he is againſt the queſtion.

Sir Robert Fletcher ſubſcribes to the opinion given by Mr. Jourdan, and is therefore againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Stratton againſt the queſtion, being clearly of opinion, that from the ſpirit of the Company's orders, the Committee of Circuit ſhould firſt proceed to inveſtigate the northern Circars, which appear to him to be the Company's principal object in the appointment of this Committee.

Preſident for the queſtion, obſerving that he is much concerned the arguments made uſe of in his minute have not had that weight with the Board which he expected, and which he thinks they deſerve. In reply to Mr. Jourdan's minute, he remarks, that undoubtedly he ought to lay before the Board the abuſes mentioned, and the ſooner he does ſo, the more he is perſuaded it will be acceptable to his employers; that he wiſhed to do this at a time when he could have Mr. Dalrymple's aſſiſtance; that he is perſuaded Mr. Jourdan is as well acquainted with the circumſtances and ſituation of this ſettlement as any man, but if he ſhould be ſo un-

fortunate in all his recommendations as he has been of late, it is evident he will receive very little ſupport from his Council after the departure of the Committee of Circuit.

Carried againſt the queſtion by a majority of ſeven to four.

Mr. Brooke delivers in the following motion in writing, which is now read.

It having been determined that the Committee of Circuit ſhall immediately proceed on that ſervice, and the Court of Directors appearing deſirous of having the affairs of the Chicacole Circar firſt ſettled, I move that Meſſrs. Ruſſell and Dalrymple do ſet out by the 15th of this month to the Chicacole Circar, to be there joined by Mr. Johnſon, in order to commence upon this buſineſs; that Mr. Lathom do repair thither as ſoon as poſſible, and that Mr. Floyer ſhall join them when he has acquired that knowledge which is ſo neceſſary for him as Chief of Maſulipatam.

The above motion being read, Mr. Floyer deſires leave to ſecond it.

It being late in the day, and the Right Honourable the Preſident informing the Board that he has a great deal to ſay to them on the ſubject of Mr. Brooke's motion, it is agreeed to adjourn till to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Pigot
George Stratton
Robt. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
George Mackay.

Fort

Fort St. George, 2d Auguſt, 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION.

Revenue department.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident, Friday the 2d.

George Stratton	Henry Brooke
Charles Floyer	John Maxwell Stone
Archdale Palmer	Francis Jourdan

George Mackay.

Sir Robert Fletcher indiſpoſed. Mr. Ruſſell and Mr. Dalrymple abſent.

Minutes of laſt Conſultation read.

THE Right Honourable the Preſident acquaints the Board, that he laſt night directed the Secretary to intimate to the Gentlemen of the Council that it would require more time to prepare what he had to lay before them on the ſubject of Mr. Brooke's motion of yeſterday, and that he requeſted their attendance this morning at 11 o'clock, in order to take under conſideration a letter from Ingeram concerning the inveſtment and other current buſineſs lying on the table; he then apologizes to Mr. Brooke for not being prepared to give an opinion on his motion, and informs him, that he ſhall lay before the Board what he has to offer on the ſubject of it as ſoon as poſſible.

The following letters from Mr. Ruſſell and Dalrymple are now read:

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

AS I conſider the motion yeſterday given in by Mr. Brooke, and ſeconded by Mr. Floyer, to convey a charge of backwardneſs in my duty

to the Company, by fixing a particular day for my departure on the Committee of Circuit, I think it incumbent on me, before I can attend your councils, to requeſt you will call upon thoſe Gentlemen to explain themſelves, and point out in what inſtance I have either been backward or negligent. On this occaſion I muſt take leave to obſerve, that Mr. Dalrymple nor myſelf have not ſince our arrival encumbered ourſelves with the charge of any employ of emolument, that we might be the readier for ſetting out on the Circuit when the Tanjore buſineſs ſhould be finally adjuſted.

The Board, when fuller than at preſent, did me the honour of appointing me Reſident at Tanjore to ſettle the buſineſs and quiet the alarms in the Rajah's mind, before my ſervices on the Circuit ſhould be called upon; and I ſhould hope they would not now fruſtrate that appointment, as I cannot but think it a highly neceſſary one, it being well known that the Nabob's Sons took great pains, and made large offers to Mr. Dawſon to prevent the appointment taking place, and even now are indefatigable in their nocturnal viſits.

I have the honour to be, very reſpectfully,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Fort St. George,
2d. Auguſt, 1776.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,
CLAUD RUSSELL.

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

THE motion made yeſterday by Mr. Brooke, and ſeconded by Mr. Floyer, *conveying an imputation that Mr. Ruſſell and I have declined our duty to the Company*, I muſt conſider as a charge, and am under the neceſſity, before I attend Council, to call upon Mr. Brooke and Mr. Floyer to explain in what inſtance I have ever been backward in performing

my

my duty, the more particularly, as I have never expreſſed even a wiſh to be excuſed going on the Committee of Circuit; on the contrary did always expreſs my readineſs to proceed, and to qualify myſelf for the execution of this duty, have with great pains abſtracted the proceedings of the Board of Revenue, to know what had been done antecedent to our arrival; and before I was ſent to Tanjore had drawn out a model for abridging Mr. Barnard's accounts, which model was approved of by the Board, and ordered to be carried into execution under the direction of the Accountant; and ſince my return, I have almoſt compleated, from the Company's records, an abſtract of all circumſtances I can find concerning the Jaghire; it is true, conſidering the Jaghire to be the matter of the moſt real importance to the Company, I have not entered into any inveſtigation of the Northern Circars, concerning which I have no local knowledge, and am therefore as great an ignoramus as Mr. Floyer declared himſelf to be, and for this reaſon his preſent attendance with the Committee was excuſed. If the Committee are to proceed firſt to the Northern Circars, the pains I have taken concerning the Jaghire is labour loſt and an examination of the Company's records, to acquire the neceſſary knowledge concerning the Northern Circars, and to have the neceſſary extracts made, will take more time than the motion allots for our departure.

So indecent a motion, as to affix any day for the departure of members of the Board, cannot, I preſume, ever be put to the vote by the Preſident, whoſe duty I conceive obliges him to pay the reſpect due to the members of his Council; ſince if there was any ground for ſuch an order, the perſon who requires to be put under ſuch command, muſt be unmeriting that confidence indiſpenſably neceſſary to be lodged in the members of the Committee of Circuit.

But circumſtanced as I am, the motion is peculiarly injurious. Upon the eve of the Grenville's diſpatch, when ſuch important matters,

wherein I have been ſo much a party concerned, are to be referred to the Company, and the Commander in Chief having repeatedly intimated to the Board, his intention to call upon them to enter into the conſideration of my conduct, which I am conſcious will ſtand the teſt, as well as his, or any members of the Board; it is in a manner preventing me making my defence to my Honourable Maſters, and precluding me from that juſtice which I have a perfect confidence of ever receiving from them, when all circumſtances are fairly repreſented.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient, humble ſervant;

Fort St. George,
2d Auguſt, 1776.

ALEXR. DALRYMPLE.

The above letters being read, Mr. Floyer addreſſes himſelf to the Board as follows:

Mr. Floyer—The letters which have now been read from Meſſieurs Ruſſell and Dalrymple, ſhould imply, by my ſeconding the motion of Mr. Brooke, read yeſterday at the Board, an indirect charge or accuſation of neglect of duty on their parts. I have in a future conſultation very fully expreſſed my wiſhes, that a time not exceeding the departure of the Grenville, ſhould be fixed for the ſetting out of the Committee of Circuit, and did then aſſign as a reaſon for ſuch wiſh, that it was not ſufficient the Court of Directors ſhould know that we had reſolved to enforce their orders relative to the Committee of Circuit, but that they ſhould by the ſame conveyance have the additional ſatisfaction, of knowing they were actually ſet out on that duty. When I uttered theſe my ſentiments, I did expect the Grenville would have been diſpatched from hence to Europe, within a month at

fartheſt;

farther. As we have been told by the Gentlemen of Bombay, that the Grenville would be diſpatched in a few days after the Revenge, which arrived here nine days ago, and as we have nothing to detain her here to my recollection after her arrival, but the ſending by her our public diſpatches to the Honourable the Court of Directors, and perhaps a few bales of our inveſtment; theſe together with the lateneſs of the ſeaſon, makes me think I am rather beyond, than within the time ſhe can with propriety be kept here.

I muſt add to the above reaſons, that in my opinion the buſineſs of the Circuit has been already too long delayed, and that if I did not uſe my endeavours, as a member of this adminiſtration, to expedite the departure of the Committee, I ſhould deſervedly incur the ſevereſt cenſure my Honourable Maſters could impoſe upon me. Theſe are the reaſons that induced me to ſecond Mr. Brooke's motions, and no other; if in that act I had intended to inſinuate any thing to the prejudice of thoſe two gentlemen, I ſhould have taken the liberty to have mentioned it at the Board, when they were preſent. I am extremely ſorry to have given this trouble to the Board, and ſhall only beg leave to make one obſervation upon theſe words in Mr. Dalrymple's letter, "*ſo indecent a motion*," (alluding to that made by Mr. Brooke) the word *indecent* is in my opinion by no means proper to be made uſe of by any member upon any occaſion, which leads to become a public act of the Board.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Brooke.—When I gave in my motion yeſterday at the Board, it was upon a general idea, that the Company's poſitive commands regarding the Circuit had been already too long delayed, and not from any intention to convey to this Board any charge of neglect againſt Mr. Ruſſell or Mr. Dalrymple. I have upon all occaſions during the debates touching the Circuit given it as my opinion, that the Company's intentions regarding the buſineſs of Tanjore were fully

fully accompliſhed, when the Rajah was put in poſſeſſion of his country, and thought the Committee of Circuit ſhould have ſet out immediately after that period.

Mr. Stratton propoſed to move, more than two months ago, that the Committee ſhould then proceed, but poſtponed it on the Preſident's requeſting it might be deferred until the arrival of the Greenwich. Upon the minute given in by Mr Jourdan the 26th ultimo, it was determined that the Committe of Circuit ſhould proceed immediately. The exception made to that was, that the word *immediately* was indefinite. I therefore thought it proper to mention a preciſe time for their departure, that no further debates might ariſe. I am concerned upon this occaſion, that thoſe gentlemen ſhould miſunderſtand my meaning, as nothing more was intended than to carry the Company's orders into execution, which appears to me to have been already too long delayed.

HENRY BROOKE.

The Right Honourable the Preſident remarks upon that part of Mr. Brooke's minute, which mentions his having requeſted Mr. Stratton to defer his motion until the arrival of the Greenwich; that it never could but have been his intention, that Mr. Stratton ſhould poſtpone that motion, until he (the Preſident) ſhould think the proper time was arrived for the departure of the Committee, when it would be unneceſſary for Mr. Stratton to make the motion at all.

The Preſident cannot avoid upon this occaſion expreſſing his concern, that two members of the Council, of whom he has the higheſt opinion, whom he has known from very young men, and whoſe ability and integrity are equal to thoſe of any ſervant of the Company he has ever known, ſhould be placed in a ſituation which they themſelves think improper and diſagreeable. The Preſident feels the more, as he ſhould think it all growing from his conduct at Tanjore, and from his wiſh to keep

keep the Rajah of Tanjore in a ſituation that ſhall henceforward free him from all unjuſt ſufferings from the Nabob, did not the Gentlemen of the Majority aſſure him to the contrary. The Preſident will allow great merit in the Majority, in adhering ſtrictly to what they conceive to be the commands of the Court of Directors; but at the ſame time he is ſorry to obſerve, that ever ſince that unfortunate journey, he has not been able to ſatisfy the Majority of the Council, that any political queſtion he had to recommend was for the benefit of the Company.

Thus ſituated, the Preſident thinks it his indiſpenſable duty to recommend to the Board to call up from Gangam and Vizagapatam Meſſieurs Smith and Johnſon, that he may be aided and aſſiſted with their advice upon this emergent occaſion. He therefore moves the Board, that they will come to that reſolution, and further informs them he ſhall afterwards propoſe,

"That the Commander of the Company's ſhip Revenge be directed to proceed to the northward, to bring up Meſſieurs Smith and Johnſon.

"That if upon enquiry it ſhall appear, that the nocturnal viſits mentioned by Mr. Ruſſell in his letter, be made by the Nabob's Sons to the members of this Council, ſuch members be ſuſpended from the Company's ſervice until their pleaſure be known."

Mr. Floyer then requeſts that the ſummons ſent laſt night to the Council may be read, which is accordingly done as follows:

Gentlemen of Council,

THE Right Honourable the Preſident has directed me to acquaint you, that he finds it will require more time to prepare what he has to lay before the Board on the ſubject of Mr. Brooke's motion; that he deſires however the Council will attend at the Fort to-morrow morning,

at eleven o'clock, to take under conſideration Mr Davidſon's letter concerning the Ingeram inveſtment and other current buſineſs.

I am, very reſpectfully,

Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient

humble ſervant,

Thurſday evening,
9 o'clock.

CHAs OAKELEY, Secretary.

Mr. Floyer then reads the following minute, ſubſcribed to by himſelf, Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſieurs Brooke, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay.

After the many inſtances which the Majority of the Board have given of their attention to the Preſident, it was with much concern and aſtoniſhment that we read the paper laſt night ſent round to the Council.

A motion for the ſetting out of the Committe for the Circars was offered to be made by Mr. Stratton more than two months ago. Mr. Ruſſell then objected to ſuch a motion being made, on account of the land winds; and the Preſident wiſhing that it might be poſtponed until the arrival of the Greenwich, the Board yielded thereto. Near two months have elapſed ſince the arrival of the Greenwich, and in the intermediate time it has been reſolved by the Governor's caſting vote, that one of the members, appointed and ordered by our maſters on the Committee of Circuit, ſhall be appointed Reſident at Tanjore; but with an intimation from the Preſident, during the debate, that the appointment to Tanjore ſhould not interfere in that member's going on the circuit.

Some days ago the vacancies in the Committee of Circuit were filled up, and it was reſolved that the Committee ſhould proceed immediate-

[illegible] ; and as ſome gentlemen obſerved that the word *immediately* was indefinite, Mr. Brook moved yeſterday to fix their departure to a day. In this debate the Preſident deſired to have one day's delay, and to adjourn until this morning at ten o'clock. This was complied with, and it was made an act of the Board, that we ſhould meet at that hour to proceed upon Mr. Brooke's motion. The Preſident, notwithſtanding that adjournment, having taken upon himſelf to order the Secretary to ſend round a paper to ſupercede that act, by ſummoning them at a different time to go upon the buſineſs of the Ingeram inveſtment, (which buſineſs appears as immediately connected with that of the enquiry intothe conduct of Mr. Sadlier, that we think no new ſyſtem can with propriety be adopted until that be finiſhed.) We muſt declare this act of the Preſident to be unconſtitutional, and that it appears to us intended to delay the execution of the poſitive orders of the Company touching the Circuit.

In ſupport therefore of thoſe orders, and of the dignity and honour of this government, we think ourſelves obliged to object to the going upon any freſh buſineſs, until the time of the departure, and place of the enquiry of the Committee of Circuit be ſettled, unleſs ſuch buſineſs ſhall be deemed of more, or of equal importance to that which is now before the Board.

Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan.

The motions before entered by the Right Honourable the Preſident, are again read at his deſire.

Mr.

Mr. Jourdan.—As the paſſage alluded to by the Right Honourable the Preſident, in the letter from Mr. Ruſſell, is too general for me to form any judgment upon, I think the latter ſhould be called upon to explain himſelf; and as I do not ſee the ſituation of the Company's affairs in the manner the Right Honourable the Preſident does, I am of opinion that the motion delivered by Mr. Brooke to the Board, in point of order and regularity, as well as importance, ought to be firſt taken into conſideration; and I therefore move that the Preſident's motions be not now put.

Mr. Mackay.—I think the motions of the Preſident very irregular, as another motion made by Mr. Brooke is now before the Board, and ought to be firſt diſpoſed of. I am therefore of opinion that the Preſident's motions be not now put.

Mr. Palmer.—I conceive that as there is a motion now before the Board, antecedent to the Preſident's queſtions, and for the determination of which the Board are now aſſembled, I am of opinion that the determination of the Preſident's motions be ſubſequent to that of the motion now before the Board.

Mr. Stone.—I think the Preſident's motions ſhould be now put.

Mr. Floyer.—I am of opinion that the Preſident's motions ought not to be now put, for the reaſons given by Mr. Jourdan, but can have no objection to their being put in due order and place.

Mr. Brooke.—I ſhall always pay the greateſt attention to every thing that is moved by the Preſident; but as the motion of yeſterday is prior to thoſe made to-day by him, and for the conſideration of which the Board agreed to meet this day, I am of opinion that the motion made yeſterday, in point of order and propriety, ſhould be firſt put, and am therefore for the queſtion.

Mr.

Mr. Stratton.—I am for the queſtion for the reaſons aſſigned by Mr. Jourdan.

Preſident.—Againſt the queſtion.

Carried by a majority of ſix to two, that the Right Honourable the Preſident's motions be not now put.

Meſſieurs Brooke and Floyer having declared in their minutes, relative to the motion made by the former, and ſeconded by the latter, at yeſterday's Conſultation, that they never intended to convey any idea of neglect of duty in Mr. Ruſſell or Mr. Dalrymple, by fixing a time for their departure,

Reſolved, That they be furniſhed with a copy of the minutes, and that the Secretary deſire their attendance next Council.

Agreed, That Mr. Brooke's motion be taken into conſideration on Monday next.

Pigot.
Geo. Stratton
Henry Brooke
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer

Fort St. George, 5th of Auguſt, 1776.

Revenue department.

AT A CONSULTATION.

Monday, the 25th.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President,

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
Henry Brooke	Claud Ruſſell
Alexander Dalrymple	Charles Floyer
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Joudan	George Mackay.

Minutes of laſt Conſultation read.

THE Right Honourable the Preſident obſerves to the Board, that the Nabob's agreement for renting the Jaghire being expired, and the Honourable Company's inveſtment at Ingeram, as well as at the Preſidency, being at a ſtand, he recommends to the Board to take thoſe important matters into conſideration, before they proceed upon other buſineſs.

Reſolved, That a letter be written to the Nabob to remind him, that the term for which the Trepaſſore, &c. diſtricts were let to him, expired on the 31ſt ultimo, and to requeſt his anſwer as ſoon as poſſible to the letter which was addreſſed to him on that ſubject the 23d ultimo.

With reſpect to the other part of the Preſident's recommendation, relative to the buſineſs of the inveſtment, the ſeveral members give their opinion as follow:

Mr. Mackay.—I am of opinion, that Mr. Brooke's motion ſhould be taken into conſideration before the buſineſs of the Ingeram inveſtment.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr.

Mr. Jourdan.—I am of opinion, for the reaſons I gave in laſt Conſultation, that Mr. Brooke's motion ſhould be firſt conſidered.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer.—I am of the ſame opinion.

Mr. Stone.—As a very conſiderable and valuable part of the Company's inveſtment has been provided under Ingeram, any ſtop or failure therein muſt be attended with not only immediate but future bad conſequences to the Company; I am therefore of opinion, that the Board cannot too ſoon proceed to take Mr. Davidſon's letter on that ſubject into conſideration.

Mr. Floyer.—I think the orders of the Court of Directors are too poſitive with reſpect to the Committee of Circuit to admit of longer delay; and as the recommendation now before us is not, in my opinion, of equal importance to the ſubject contained in Mr. Brooke's motion, I am of opinion, that the ſaid motion of Mr. Brooke ſhould firſt be conſidered.

Mr. Dalrymple.—I am of opinion, that nothing is of more eſſential conſequence to the Company than their inveſtments. As I underſtand the Ingeram inveſtment is at a ſtop, I think this requires the firſt attention of the Board; and it is neceſſary for me to obſerve, that I called in vain for Mr. Davidſon's letter to be read. I alſo underſtand, from the Export Warehouſe-keeper's declaration at the Board, a few days ago, that the weavers of the ſouthern Pyokets had given to him a written declaration, that they could not conform to the reſolutions of the Board, and that this branch of the inveſtment is alſo at a ſtand.

Mr. Ruſſell.—I am of opinion, that the Ingeram inveſtment ſhould be firſt taken into conſideration for the reaſons given by Mr. Stone.

Mr.

Mr. Brooke.—I am of opinion, that the motion I have delivered in ſhould be firſt conſidered, as well from the importance of the ſubject, as becauſe what I have therein propoſed is in obedience of the Company's orders.

Sir Robert Fletcher.—I am of the ſame opinion with Mr. Floyer.

Mr. Stratton.—I am of opinion, Mr. Brooke's motion ſhould be firſt conſidered, for the reaſons given by Mr. Jourdan.

Preſident.—I am of opinion, the buſineſs of the inveſtment ſhould be firſt conſidered.

Agreed by a majority of ſeven to four, that the motion delivered in by Mr. Brooke be firſt taken into conſideration.

The Right Honourable the Preſident then delivers in the following minute:

The Preſident obſerves to the Board, that the motion before them having been objected to by two members of the Board, as reflecting upon them, he cannot think the Gentlemen from whom it came can ſtill require ſuch a motion to be put; the more particularly, as it is impoſſible for Meſſieurs Ruſſell and Dalrymple, who have no local knowledge in the Circars, to prepare themſelves in ſo ſhort a time for ſuch a ſervice. He muſt further obſerve, that Mr. Brooke, the Gentleman from whom this motion comes, ſo lately as the 29th of laſt month, gave his negative to Mr. Lathom's appointment, that Gentleman having "Had "no opportunity of acquiring any knowledge in the buſineſs on which "the Committee is ordered." The Preſident conſidering alſo, that the Board have given Mr. Floyer permiſſion to remain at Maſulipatam, till he has had time to make himſelf ſomewhat acquainted with the Circars,

he, the Preſident, cannot conceive the motion propoſed by Mr. Brooke, and ſeconded by Mr. Floyer, can be ſupported on any ground, ſince Mr. Ruſſell and Mr. Dalrymple are at preſent as little acquainted with the Circars as Mr. Lathom or Mr. Floyer.

The Preſident further obſerves, that if the Committee of Revenue can be conſidered in any degree ſimilar to the Committee of Circuit, Mr. Jourdan, who is one of that Committee, and has been in the Circars, would have been the propereſt perſon to have filled up the vacancy in the Committee of Circuit; and the majority of Council having excuſed him merely for his private convenience, cannot, with any decency, deny ſomething to the convenience of other members, who are acknowledged to be in no meaſure backward in their duty.

The Court of Directors having been pleaſed to commit the inſpection of the Jaghire to the Committee of Circuit, the Preſident thinks that charge cannot be transferred to the Committee of Revenue, as recommended by Mr. Jourdan. The Preſident is very well convinced of the neceſſity of enquiring into the many abuſes and oppreſſions, and at the ſame time he is not ignorant, that it would be very pleaſing to the Nabob to have that enquiry poſtponed, or made by his friends.

The Preſident makes no reply to the minute delivered in by Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſieurs Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, leaving the conſideration of that to the Court of Directors; but he cannot avoid taking notice, that thoſe ſeven members generally go together upon every queſtion and compoſe the majority; minutes are prepared and agreed to, motions are framed and determined on, even before the purport of them is made known to him, the Preſident, or the other members of the Council at large. The Preſident is fully perſuaded, that nothing he can urge will put a ſtop to theſe irregular proceedings, but nevertheleſs thinks it a duty incumbent on him,

thus publickly to take notice of them, that the Court of Directors may ſee, that their Preſident, inſtead of meeting with ſupport from the Council, appointed to aid and aſſiſt him, finds, when they are aſſembled, it is only to give ſanction to meaſures hatched and matured by them in private, and to put a negative upon every meaſure propoſed by him, the Preſident.

The Preſident conſidering his own reſponſibility, as well as that of his office, confirmed by the Company's late diſmiſſion of his predeceſſor for the meaſures of the Council, thinks he is warranted, by the neceſſity of circumſtances, to *require*, "That Mr. Ruſſell ſhall forthwith proceed to Tanjore to quiet the mind of the Rajah," which is the more proper, as the majority of the Council have been pleaſed to refuſe the Rajah ſo ſmall a requeſt, as to *continue Lieutenant-Colonel Harper* in the command of Tanjore, and to declare that he, the Preſident, will not aſſent to Colonel Stuart's proceeding to Tanjore till Mr. Ruſſell goes thither.

The above minute being read, Mr. Dalrymple and Mr. Ruſſell enter the following minutes:

Mr. Dalrymple's minute.

I ſhall ever be ready, at a minute's warning, to go where the exigency of the ſervice demands, but I cannot be induced to think an undertaking, which will take *ſome years* to execute, can require a *day*, or even a *month* to be affixed for its commencement. I truſt, therefore, I ſhall ſtand excuſed to our Honourable Maſters in ſaying, that I cannot be ready by the day propoſed in Mr. Brooke's motion, to proceed on the Circuit of the Northern Circars, in which my reputation is ſo much at ſtake, and on which I muſt be ſo long abſent; and being convinced my Honourable Maſters will not require more of me, as I am acquitted by the Board of every ſuſpicion of backwardneſs to execute that, or any other duty, I ſhall, without apprehenſion, ſtand to the deciſion of our Honourable

Maſters; and, although I cannot name a day when I ſhall be ready, nobody will ſuſpect me of idling away my time.

I am in the ſame predicament with Mr. Dalrymple, and having beſides diſpatched part of my baggage to Tanjore, in expectation of proceeding thither in conſequence of my appointment as Reſident, I muſt beg leave to apprize the Board, that it will be impoſſible for me to ſet out on the Circuit on the day fixed in the motion. Mr. Ruſſell's minute.

Mr. Mackay then moves an amendment to the motion delivered in by Mr. Brooke the 1ſt inſtant, by fixing the date of the Committee's departure to the 31ſt, inſtead of the 15th of this month.

Mr. Ruſſell thereupon deſires it may be minuted, that he cannot poſſibly get ready to proceed before the 1ſt of October; and the Preſident expreſſes his hope, that the Board will ſee the neceſſity, where the Company's affairs do not require the immediate departure of the Committee, that a member ſhould make it convenient to his own affairs.

The queſtion on the amendment propoſed in Mr. Brooke's motion is then put.

Mr. Mackay.—I am for the amendment.

Mr. Jourdan for the amendment.

Mr. Palmer for the amendment.

Mr. Stone.—I am againſt the amendment; and I am very ſorry to ſee any day fixt for the departure of a member of this Board, as I have not the leaſt reaſon to ſuſpect that he will make any unneceſſary delay, knowing the deſire of the Board that he ſhould proceed with all expedition.

Mr.

Mr. Floyer.—I am for the amendment, and have no other reaſon for giving this as my opinion, than that I deem the time of departure therein mentioned more conſiſtent with the orders of the Court of Directors.

Mr. Dalrymple.—I am againſt the amendment propoſed by Mr. Mackay, becauſe I think the Board ought to conform to Mr. Ruſſell's convenience as far as to allow him till the 1ſt of October; and I doubt not, before that period, the other members may be enabled to give our Honourable Maſters a general idea of the ſtate of the Province from this our own knowledge and obſervation.

Mr. Ruſſell againſt the amendment.

Mr. Brooke for the amendment.

Sir Robert Fletcher for the amendment.

Mr. Stratton for the amendment.

Preſident againſt the amendment, as he is of opinion the Committee ſhould not proceed at all *until he thinks proper*.

Carried for the amendment by a majority of 7 to 4.

Mr. Brooke's motion is then read with the propoſed amendment, and the queſtion being put thereupon,

Mr. Mackay for the queſtion.

Mr. Jourdan for the queſtion.

Mr. Palmer for the queſtion.

Mr. Stone againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Floyer for the queſtion.

Mr. Dalrymple againſt the queſtion.

Mr.

Mr. Ruſſell againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Brooke for the queſtion.

Sir Robert Fletcher for the queſtion.

Mr. Stratton for the queſtion.

Preſident againſt the queſtion.

Carried for the queſtion by a majority of 7 to 4.

Reſolved, That the members of the Committee preſent be furniſhed as ſoon as poſſible with a copy of the orders of the Company touching the Circuit for their guidance.

The Right Honourable the Preſident's motions entered in laſt conſultation are then read as follows:

1. " That the Board will come to the reſolution of calling up Meſſieurs Smith and Johnſon to take their ſeats at the Board."

2. " That the Commander of the Company's ſhip Revenge be directed to proceed to the northward to bring up Meſſieurs Smith and Johnſon."

3. " That if upon enquiry it ſhall appear that the *nocturnal viſits*, mentioned by Mr. Ruſſell in his letter to be made by the Nabob's Sons, be to the members of this Council, ſuch members be ſuſpended from the Company's ſervice until their pleaſure be known."

The queſtion upon the firſt motion being put,

Mr. Mackay. I am againſt the queſtion, becauſe I think the ſending for the Chiefs of Ganjam and Vizagapatam will be prejudicial to

the Company's affairs, particularly as Mr. Johnſon is a member of the Committee of Circuit.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Palmer againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Stone for the queſtion.

Mr. Floyer.—When the Honourable Court of Directors granted a new commiſſion of government to the Right Honourable Lord Pigot and the other members of their Council at this Preſidency, as is uſual upon their confirmation or nomination of a new Preſident and Governor, they thought proper to include therein every member who they were adviſed had ſucceeded to the ſeats vacated by ſome of the gentlemen who had returned to Europe; ſo that by the introduction of Mr. Ruſſell, Mr. Dalrymple, and myſelf into Council upon this eſtabliſhment, the number of the Council at that time amounted to 19 members (of which number Mr. Hay, Mr. Strachey, and Mr. Cotsford were in Europe) including the Preſident and the Commander in Chief; but they were pleaſed particularly to direct, that no future vacancies in the Council ſhould be filled up until it was reduced to the number of twelve. Four of this number are conſtant reſident Chiefs at the ſubordinate factories. Hence it is evident to me, that the number of the Board ultimately intended to govern the Company's affairs on this Coaſt are eight, including the Commander in Chief, whoſe reſidence at Fort St. George is precarious and uncertain.

We have till very lately been twelve members of the Board, and are now actually eleven in number; notwithſtanding which the Preſident moves that Mr. Smith and Mr. *Johnſon be called up from the* northern ſettlements to take their ſeats at the Board.

To

To the motion I object for the following reaſons:

1ſt, Becauſe the Board is compoſed of more members than our Maſters intended it ſhould hereafter be compoſed of for the government of their affairs.

2dly, Becauſe I think the delay which muſt neceſſarily be occaſioned by the coming up of thoſe Chiefs from ſettlements ſo very diſtant from the Presidency will be attended with prejudice to the affairs of the Company, and be inconſiſtent with their poſitive commands relative to the Committee of Circuit.

3dly, Becauſe Mr. Johnſon is one of the members of the Committee of Circuit nominated by the Honourable Court of Directors.

And 4thly, Becauſe the Board have this day come to the reſolution, that a part of the Committee ſhall ſet out on the 31ſt inſtant for the Circar of Chicacole, which is under the direction of Mr. Johnſon and his Council at Vizagapatam.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Dalrymple.—The Preſident thinking the preſent ſituation of affairs requires the attendance of a full Board, I give my aſſent to his motion, becauſe it ſeems proper for our Honourable Maſters to know if the actual majority of the whole Board do, or do not concur in opinion with the Preſident on the political concerns of the Company on this Coaſt.

Mr. Ruſſell for the queſtion, for the reaſons urged by Mr. Dalrymple.

Mr. Brooke. I am againſt the queſtion, becauſe I think Mr. Smith and Mr. Johnſon are better employed for the intereſt of our Maſters in their

their reſpective ſtations than they would be at the Preſidency, where there are already members ſufficient.

Sir Robert Fletcher.—I ſhould be glad to ſee Meſſieurs Smith and Johnſon here at this time; but I am obliged to be againſt the motion, becauſe I think it is contrary to the reſolution of the Board reſpecting the Committee of Circuit; contrary to the Company's orders reſpecting the eſtabliſhed numbers of the Council at the Preſidency; and contrary to the expreſs words of the Commiſſion of Government, as it reſpects the Chiefs of Subordinates.

Mr. Stratton againſt the queſtion, for the reaſons urged by Mr. Floyer.

Preſident for the queſtion.

The queſtion being carried againſt the firſt motion by a majority of 7 to 4, it becomes unneceſſary to put any queſtion upon the ſecond motion.

The third motion being read and the queſtion put upon it;

Mr. Mackay.—I am againſt the queſtion, becauſe I think it is contrary to every principle of juſtice, as well as to the eſtabliſhed rules of the ſervice, that we ſhould make an act of Government to puniſh any ſervants of the Company, before an accuſation is brought againſt them, or even before it is known that they have committed any offence.

If this motion is carried in the affirmative, any member of the Board, who may have been viſited by either of the Nabob's Sons after it is dark, is liable to be ſuſpended from the Company's ſervice, though it ſhould appear on examination, that the viſit was not made with the knowledge or conſent of ſuch Member; and notwithſtanding the reſolution

of the Council, not to viſiſt the Nabob or his Sons, has been reſcinded by a great majority of the Board.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan.—The majority of the Board having determined that the reſolution of Council, prohibiting the Members from viſiting the Nabob, &c. is legally, if not formally reſcinded; I know of no offence in viſiting or receiving viſits from the Nabob or his Sons, and of courſe cannot conſent to the motion. But I cannot help adding, that to paſs the motion as it ſtands, would be inconſiſtent with my ideas of juſtice, as it would be condemning a man without giving him an opportunity of defending himſelf, nay even before a charge be laid againſt him.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer.—I am againſt the queſtion for the reaſons given by Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Stone.—I think the motion rather premature, and am therefore againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Floyer.—Whenever a charge is given, and particularly in ſo general a manner as this ſeems to have been done by Mr. Ruſſell, I conceive the only proper and regular manner of procedure is, to call upon Mr. Ruſſell to explain ſuch charge, in order to obtain the neceſſary proofs, and upon the obtainment of proof of any delinquency, the Board, in my opinion, ſhould then, and not before, proceed to paſs ſuch cenſure upon the delinquents as they may deem themſelves legally authorized to inflict. I therefore think this motion of the Preſident premature, and am againſt its being made until a charge of delinquency is brought and proved, not only againſt any Members of this Board, but againſt any other perſons reſiding under the Britiſh Government.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Dalrymple.—I am for the queſtion, as I conſider the prohibition againſt viſits from the Nabob or his Sons ſtill in force. If ſuch viſits are conſidered as criminal, they merit ſuſpenſion.

Mr. Ruſſell.—I look upon the reſolution prohibiting viſits or intercourſe of any kind with the Nabob or his Sons ſtill in force, and any Member that has infringed it deſerves ſuſpenſion upon being regularly convicted. I am therefore for the queſtion.

Mr. Brooke.—I am againſt the queſtion for the reaſons aſſigned by Mr. Mackay.

Sir Robert Fletcher.—I ſubſcribed to the opinion given by Mr. Jourdan, and am therefore againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Stratton.—Againſt the queſtion for the reaſons given by Mr. Mackay.

Preſident.—For the queſtion.

Carried againſt the queſtion by a majority of eight to three.

It being late in the day, and ſome of the Members propoſing to adjourn, the Right Honourable the Preſident obſerves, that if any Gentlemen are to riſe from the table not ſatisfied that Mr. Ruſſell can clearly maintain what he has aſſerted, he objects to the Council's breaking up at this time, and is for going into that enquiry immediately.

Mr. Floyer agrees to the Preſident's deſire of having the ſubject of Mr. Ruſſell's letter diſcuſſed at preſent, and the majority of the Board being of that opinion, Mr. Ruſſell's letter dated the 2d inſtant and entered in laſt Conſultation is read.

Mr.

Mr. Ruſſell is then deſired to acquaint the Board where he obtained the information, relative to Mr. Dawſon's having had large offers made him for the purpoſe mentioned in that letter.

Mr. Ruſſell replies, that what relates to Mr. Dawſon he had from himſelf; which he mentions to his credit.

Mr. Dalrymple likewiſe obſerves, that what relates to Mr. Dawſon he heard from him.

Mr. Floyer upon this occaſion ſolemnly declares, that this is the firſt time he ever heard of this matter, except from that paſſage of Mr. Ruſſell's letter to the Board read the other day.

The Right Honourable the Preſident then obſerves, that the other paſſage in Mr. Ruſſel's letter, reſpecting *nocturnal viſits*, proceeds from intelligence which that Gentleman received from himſelf; but that having failed in his application to the Board to make the puniſhment certain, he ſhall keep the names of the offenders concealed until another opportunity.

Mr. Floyer gives it as his opinion, that the Preſident ſhould be now requeſted to explain to the Board what he means by *nocturnal viſits*; and further deſired to favour the Board with the names of any of its Members who he thinks have committed any offence.

With reſpect to the *nocturnal viſits*, the Preſident eſteems all viſits made after ſun-ſet to be nocturnal viſits; and when he ſhall ſee an opportunity which ſuits well with the intereſt of the Company, and he is well perſuaded he can bring the puniſhment home, he will produce offenders, and not till then.

The Board then adjourn until Thurſday next, to take into conſideration the buſineſs of the inveſtment at the Preſidency and at Ingeram.

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

Fort St. George, 9 Auguſt. 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION. Revenue Department.

PRESENT,

The Right Honorable Lord Pigot, Preſident.

George Stratton,	Henry Brooke,	Friday 9th
Claud Ruſſell,	Alexander Dalrymple,	
Charles Floyer,	John Maxwell Stone,	
Archdale Palmer,	Francis Jourdan,	

George Mackay.

THE Honorable Company's Ship Revenge being under diſpatch for the Northern ſettlements, conformable to what he mentioned in conſultation the 9th inſtant, the Preſident lays before the Board, the draught of a letter to Maſulipatam, that Mr. Floyer may proceed thither, if it be convenient to him.

To Charles Floyer, Eſq; Chief, &c. and Council at Maſulipatam.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Court of Directors having been pleaſed to nominate Mr. Floyer to the Chiefſhip of Maſulpatam, next after Mr. Whitehill, and the ſame being vacant by the reſignation of that gentleman, Mr. Floyer proceeds accordingly to take charge of that ſettlement. Draught of a letter to Maſulipatam.

As complaints have ariſen from the ſervants of the Company becoming ſecurity for the payment of the Kiſts due to the Company, and the influence they have had, and authority exerted in the country having been injurious in the greateſt degree to the natives, who had prior aſſignments on the country, for monies ſupplied the different Zemindars for payment of their Kiſts, &c. We direct that in time to come, no ſervant of the Company ſhall, on any account whatever, directly, or indirectly, lend money to the Country Powers, or be in any reſpect whatever concerned in the collection of the revenues.

Lauldoſs the Soucar, acquaints our Preſident, that he has a demand upon the country of Opparow Zemindar, but this Soucar having been interrupted in collecting his debts, we recommend to your attention his particular caſe, and direct that you give him all proper aid and aſſiſtance; as alſo in recovering his debts of the Zemindar, Vaſoriddy, and the Pettaporam Zemindar, although this laſt was during the Mooriſh government.

The complaints made by the Nabob to our Honorable Maſters ſhall be removed by the land's being let out in future, either by the Committee of circuit or the Preſident and Council here, and of this you will make public Proclamation, that propoſals will be received until the firſt of March next, for the renting of that part of the Circars under your management, after the preſent term expires. Theſe propoſals muſt be for one year only; for although we are ſatisfied larger offers might be expected, were we to grant a longer leaſe, the Court of Directors would doubtleſs diſapprove our ſo doing, before the Committee of Circuit had made ſome enquiry into that part of their eſtate.

Read the following letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 5th Auguſt 1776.

I have

Letter from the Nabob.

I have received your letter, dated the 23d of July, and now reply to it in part; you write, that the term of the rent of Tripaſore, &c. "diſtricts is nearly expired, and deſire me to inform you whether I wiſh "to rent them for another year." I need not mention how regularly I have hitherto paid the annual rents notwithſtanding the troubles, failure of rains, and conſiderable loſſes I have ſuffered in the paſt years. This I doubt not will meet with the Company's approbation; if they will do me the favor in future to take my ſecurity in the ſame manner as before for the Jaghire diſtricts, it will be a kindneſs, and will alſo be advantageous to the Company. In my letter of the 16th July, I wrote to you concerning the tenants of thoſe diſtricts, and in reply thereto, you have not written explicitly. I have therefore ſent encloſed, a draught for a Company's order, regarding the Jaghire tenants; do me the favor to ſend me one agreeably to that form, as it will be uſeful to the Company's affairs. After writing the above, your letter was brought me of the 5th Auguſt; as it relates to the buſineſs abovementioned, writing an anſwer would be repetition. What can I ſay more?

Draught for an Order from the Company.

IN like manner as the Company's Deputies, that is to ſay, the former Governors, determined that the Managers of the Company's Jaghire diſtricts ſhould allow the tenants their uſual ſhare of produce and other cuſtoms, conformably to the practice held in the time of Saadut Ulla Cawn, and that the tenants receiving the ſame, ſhould exert themſelves to increaſe the cultivation and population of the ſaid diſtricts; ſo alſo, an order is now iſſued, that the Managers of the ſaid diſtricts, do according to the practice held in the time of Saadut Ulla Cawn, allow the Ryots or tenants their uſual ſhare, together with the Inauns, Shotrums, &c. for which they have Sunnuds from the Soubadar; that the tenants do receive their uſual ſhare, according to the practice in the time of Saadut Ulla Cawn, together with the Inauns Shotrums, &c. for which

which they have Sunnuds from the Soubadars, and that they do exert themſelves to increaſe the cultivation and population of the Company's Jaghire Diſtricts aforeſaid, in caſe of their acting contrary to this order, they ſhall not have protecton.

The Right Honorable the Preſident lays before the Board the draught of a letter in anſwer to the above; and the form of a Cowle, which he recommends to be ſent to the Nabob.

To the Nabob

In the letter your Highneſs has done me the honor to write, you are pleaſed to offer your Highneſs's ſecurity for the Trepaſſore, &c. diſtricts, in the ſame manner as before, without taking notice of the new ſtipulations expreſſed in my letter of the 23d July; I muſt again therefore deſire a direct reply, whether you wiſh that the ſaid diſtricts ſhall be let on your ſecurity for another year, on the conditions ſpecified in the accompanying Cowle, and Guntoor Vencatachellum being dead, the name is left blank for your Highneſs to fill up.

The Preſident takes notice, that a compariſon having been made between the preſent Cowle and thoſe granted in former times, many neceſſary things appear to him to have been omitted in the preſent form; he therefore propoſes, that the following Cowle ſhould be ſent to the Nabob, to ſatisfy him in the particular conditions on which the Council propoſe to offer him the Trepaſſore, &c. diſtricts at rent.

THIS INDENTURE, made this —— day of Auguſt, in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-ſix, and in the ſixteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign, Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. Between the Right Honorable Lord Pigot Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George, on the coaſt of Choromandel, on

on behalf of the Honourable United Company of Merchants trading to the Eaſt Indies, on the one part, and

on the other part witneſſeth, that the ſaid Preſident and Council, for divers cauſes, and good reaſons them thereunto moving, have demiſed, granted, and to farm letten, and do by theſe preſents demiſe, grant, and to farm let, unto the ſaid his heirs, executors adminiſtrators or aſſigns, all the grounds, houſes, towns, and gardens, juncan places, and pollygars, villages belonging to the ſaid Company within the diſtricts of Trepaſſore, ſeven Magans, Conjeveram, Trichiconum, Chingleput, Jagueer, and Wodarapet, Munnamungatum, Carangoly, Cavantandelum, Autremalor, and Salivauk, Covelony, and the rents and revenues thereof, to have and to hold the ſaid demiſed premiſes, and every part and parcel thereof, unto the ſaid his heirs, executors, adminiſtrators and aſſigns, unto the full end and expiration of one year, to be accounted from the 1ſt inſtant, and ending the laſt day of July, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-ſeven; he yielding and paying to the ſaid Preſident and Council the yearly rent or ſum of three hundred and twenty-four thouſand (324000 Pagodas) in manner following, that is to ſay,

On the 31ſt day of January	—	100,000
On the 30th June	——	124,000
On the 30th September	—	100,000
Making together		324,000

And if it ſhall happen, that the aforeſaid payments ſhall not be made within the ſpace of two months after the ſame are due, being lawfully demanded, that then the ſaid his heirs, executors, adminiſtrators, or aſſigns, ſhall forfeit and pay unto the ſaid Preſident and Council for the uſe of the Company aforeſaid.

It is alſo further covenanted and agreed by and between the parties to theſe preſents; that the ſaid his heirs, executors, or aſſigns, ſhall not receive, or cauſe to be received, the produce of ſuch villages as have been appointed as Jaghires, or granted as Inaums, choutrums, or charitable gifts.

It is alſo further agreed, that the ſaid his heirs, executors, adminiſtrators or aſſigns, ſhall not receive, or cauſe to be received more, or in any kind or degree whatſoever, for the rates of the Juncans then was collected in the time of Nabob Suadet Ulla Caun; and it is agreed that the ſhares or proportions of the corps to be allowed to the cultivators and inhabitants, ſhall be the ſame as were allowed in the time of that Nabob; and if the ſaid his heirs, executors, adminiſtrators or aſſigns, ſhall act any thing contrary to the true intent and meaning of theſe premiſes, he or they ſhall be ſubject to ſuch fine as the ſaid Preſident and Council ſhall adjudge.

It is further agreed, that for all perſons that may come to inhabit within the limits of the demiſed premiſes, the ſaid his heirs, &c. ſhall no ways moleſt or hinder them, but ſhall allow them ſuch ground to build on as the Preſident and Council ſhall think fit; and further,

That the ſaid his heirs, &c, ſhall not exerciſe any judicial authority over any of the ſaid Company's inhabitants, either by confinement, inflicting corporal puniſhment, or extorting from them any of their goods and chattels; but if there be any juſt cauſe of complaint, he ſhall make application for juſtice to the Preſident and Council aforeſaid.

And it is further agreed, that the ſaid Preſident and Council ſhall make a reaſonable and equitable allowance for all loſſes the ſaid

may

may ſuſtain by means of the Marattas, or other enemies; but the ſaid is to keep at all times, at his own charge, a proper Sibendy to preſerve peace and good order. And it is alſo further agreed, that the trees in the ſaid diſtricts ſhall not be deſtroyed or damaged, or the ſheep or cattle of the inhabitants taken under any pretence; and whereas it has been reſolved, by the ſaid Preſident and Council, that the Company's weavers ſhall not pay any taxes, or be liable to perſonal ſervice, a deduction of pagodas ſhall be made out of the laſt kiſt of the ſaid rent upon that account.

And it is alſo agreed, that the ſaid ſhall repair all the Tanks and Water-courſes in the ſaid diſtricts, without any deduction from the rents, in ſuch manner, that they ſhall be delivered up at the expiration of this leaſe in ſuch condition as ſhall be approved by the Committee of Circuit, and that the money collected for ſuch public purpoſes ſhall be duly applied.

And it is alſo agreed, that the ſaid his heirs, &c. ſhall not make any mortages of the lands now put under his charge or any part of them, or their produce, as ſuch mortgages ſhould they be made, will be conſidered as invalid.

And it is hereby further agreed, that the Committee appointed by the Honorable Court of Directors to make the circuit of the diſtricts now let to farm, ſhall have full liberty to explore the ſaid diſtricts, and to aſcertain the real produce and revenues thereof, the number of inhabitants, the ſtate of the manufactures, the groſs amount of revenues, articles from which they ariſe, the mode by which they are collected, the charges of collection, the ſpecific proportions uſually reſerved by the Government, and that which cuſtom or uſage has allotted to the cultivator as the reward of his labour; to enquire alſo what ſecurity the native has for his property. And it being the earneſt deſire of the ſaid

Company

Company to free the inhabitants, as far as may be in their power, from undue exactions and oppreſſions; all farmers who ſhall exact more than their due proportion from their under tenants ſhall forfeit their farms.

Laſtly, it is agreed as aforeſaid, that if at any time a diſagreement ſhould ariſe, concerning any of the beforementioned articles, or concerning any matter or thing that may hereafter be diſputable, and not herein provided for; in ſuch caſe, it ſhall be left to the determination of the Preſident and Council. In witneſs whereof, the ſaid Preſident and Council have ſet their hands, and cauſed the ſaid Company's ſeal to be affixed to one part of this Indenture, and the ſaid
to the other part, hath ſet his hand and ſeal the day and year, firſt above written.

Witneſs.

Mr. Mackay. Some of the members objecting to the above cowle being ſent, the Preſident takes the opinion of the Board upon the ſubject, as follows. As the jaghire for ſome years paſt, has been let to the Nabob only by letter from year to year, I am for his having it the enſuing year in the ſame manner; adding what the Company ſay in their orders by the Grenville, that the Committe of circuit ſhall be at liberty to explore the country, and to aſcertain the real produce and revenues thereof. I am beſides, againſt the cowle now propoſed by the Preſident, becauſe the terms of it differ from the letter written to the Nabob the 23d July, wherein he is told the conditions on which he is to have the Jaghire.

GEORGE MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan. I do not approve of the cowle, or of that part of the letter relating thereto. It appears that the Nabob has never had a cowle; but that the Inaum lands have been continued from to time; under his management by letter, he not having been conſidered in the ſame light as any other renter, and a letter having been written on the

23d

23d July, to which the anſwer of the Nabob is inſufficient, I think, that the Nabob ſhould be required to anſwer the ſame particularly, and that if he conſent, his anſwer ſhall be received as an agreement. After the letter of the 23d ult. to require freſh conditions muſt appear extraordinary.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer ſubſcribes to Mr. Jourdan's opinion.

Mr. Stone.—Although the Nabob has for ſome years paſt had the management of the Trepaſſore, &c. diſtricts without a cowle, yet as the Court of Directors have thought proper that we require from him particular ſtipulations with regard to theſe lands, I think that a cowle is neceſſary, and therefore approve of what is propoſed by the Preſident.

Mr. Floyer.—I concur in opinion with Mr. Jourdan, being induced to think a cowle unneceſſary to be now tendered to the Nabob, as upon reference to the proceedings there does not appear to have been a cowle executed by any perſon nominated by the Nabob ſince the Year 1765, which was on a leaſe for three years.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Dalrymple.—I approve the letter and cowle recommended by the Preſident, if the Jaghire is to be let for another year to the Nabob, either as principal or ſecurity; but I agree with the Board (Vide Conſult. Auguſt 4th 1775) that the Nabob's having any thing to do with it is very prejudicial to the Company's intereſt; and our Honorable Maſters having been pleaſed to expreſs their wiſh to keep the Jaghire in their immediate poſſeſſion, removes the only reaſon for which the Board were then induced to let theſe diſtricts be continued under the Nabob. I gave my conſent to his having it for one year more, in conſideration that the Com-

pany have expreſsly ordered it to be a condition in the agreement to be concluded with him, that it ſhould be open to the inſpection of the Committee of Circuit; and I thought the proper enquiry into the value and ſtate of the Jaghire, as well as into the moſt convenient method of managing it, might be determined in the ſucceeding year, with leſs riſk to the Company than if immediately taken into their own management; and I alſo conſidered, that the minute enquiry neceſſary to attain a perfect knowledge of it would appear to the inhabitants, whilſt the Nabob had the management, only as the meaſures of the Company's government to relieve them from oppreſſion; but if it were done under the Company's immediate government, it might give an alarm to their apprehenſions: But the late reſolution of the Council, concerning the Committee of Circuit, renders all theſe objects abortive.

I think it abſolutely neceſſary to define what ſhall be conſidered as repair to the Tanks; for it is ſaid, Conſult. July 20, 1764, "As "the Tanks in the ſeveral countries are much in want of repair," Agreed, each bidder be required to ſignify the meaſures he propoſes to take for repairing them. I am informed the ſeveral propoſals imported, that a very large ſum, it is ſaid 50 or 60,000 Pagodas was to be laid out in repairing the Tanks. Vencatachillum, in his cowle, engages to repair the Tanks without any deduction of rent: no ſum is ſpecified, but I am told it was underſtood to be to the ſame amount as the other propoſals; however, nothing of this kind has been done to the Tanks during the whole period that the Nabob has had the Jaghire under his management, which I am aſſured are in a worſe ſtate now than in 1764, altho' the annual taxes collected for repairs of Tanks in the ſeveral diſtricts amount to a very conſiderable ſum, which has been otherwiſe applied. In the Poonamalee Country alone the taxes on this account amount to 2,500 Pagodas, which in the twelve years, ſince 1764, is 30,000 Pagodas.

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I do not think it can be ſaid there are new conditions in this cowle, as the fine for non-payment of rent before the expiration of two months after due, is agreeable to the old cowles; which have been altered without any authority that I can find, and the preſent form of cowles has been repreſented by the Committee of Revenues as very imperfect: if this can be called a *new condition*, it is a condition more *favourable* to the Nabob, as in the cowle granted to Vencatachillum it is ſtipulated, that if payment is not made in ten days after due, the cowle ſhall be forfeited; and in that now propoſed the Nabob is allowed two months.

Mr. Ruſſell.—Whenever Lands are let I think a cowle neceſſary, be it the Nabob or any other perſon that rents them. The draught now before the Board I approve, as well as the letter propoſed to accompany it.

Mr. Brooke ſubſcribes to the opinion of Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Stratton.—On reference to the records read at the Board it appears, that the firſt cowle for the Jaghire was granted to Guntoor Vencatachillum, in 1765 for three years, and that ſince that time no cowle whatever has been entered into by the Nabob, or any other perſon in his name; but a letter was wrote to the Nabob when ſuch term expired, acquainting him that the Board conſented he ſhould continue to have the management of the revenue of the Trepaſore, Poonamalee, &c. diſtricts, expreſſing the time on the ſame terms as they have been held by the Nabob for ſome years paſt. It is my opinion, that the ſame mode ſhould now be obſerved, by a letter being wrote to aſk him, whether he is willing to take the Trepaſore, &c. diſtricts, on the terms mentioned in the Preſident's letter, dated July 23, which if he complies with, I think his anſwer ſhould be looked upon as an agreement (as heretofore) that he will comply therewith, without his executing the propoſed cowle, which contains new matter from that entered into in 1765, or the letter wrote to him the 23d of July laſt.

Vide Conſ. 4 Aug. 1775.

Preſident

Preſident.—Of opinion that the letter and cowle ſhould he ſent.

The majority of the Board being of opinion that the cowle propoſed by the Preſident ſhould not be ſent to the Nabob, the following draught of a letter is now prepared in anſwer to that received from him, and entered in the foregoing part of theſe minutes.

To the Nabob,

IN the letter your Highneſs has done me the honor to write me, dated the 5th inſt. you are pleaſed to ſay, that if in future I will take your ſecurity, in the ſame manner as before, for the Trepaſſore, &c. diſtricts, it will be a kindneſs, and will alſo be advantageous to the Company. As in the above letter your Highneſs takes no notice of the new ſtipulations, expreſſed in my letter of the 23d of July, I muſt deſire a direct reply, whether you wiſh that the ſaid diſtricts ſhall be continued under your Highneſs's management for another year, on the conditions mentioned in the above letter of the 23d of July? I think it neceſſary here to ſet forth the Company's orders more particularly, with reſpect to the ſaid diſtricts, in order to explain what the Company are pleaſed to direct ſhall be an expreſs condition, in the agreement made with your Highneſs for continuing the ſaid diſtricts under your management for another year.

That the Committee of Circuit be at full liberty to explore the country, and to aſcertain the real produce and revenues thereof, the number of inhabitants, the ſtate of the manufactures, the groſs amount of revenues, articles from which they ariſe, the mode by which they are collected, the charges of collection, the ſpecifick proportion uſually received by the government, and that which cuſtom or uſage has allotted to the cultivator as the reward of his labour; to enquire what ſecurity the native has for his property; to deliver the inhabitants, ſo far as may be in their power, from undue exactions and oppreſſions; that the produce to be received by the farmers of every denomination be aſcertained and exactly defined; and that all farmers who ſhall exact more than their due proportion from their

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under tenants ſhall forfeit their farms, and that eſpecial care be taken that the means of redreſs, in caſe of impoſition or oppreſſion, be rendered as eaſy as poſſible.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

Fort St. George,
Auguſt 9, 1776.

PIGOT.

The following minute delivered in by Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſrs. Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, is now read:

Minutes of this kind cannot be written at the Board; if they could, when diviſions run as they have done, and when ſuch doctrines have been held forth as we have heard, diſcuſſions at the Board would have brought on perſonalities which might have involved the Company's affairs in more difficulties than they now are. Minute of the Majority.

We cannot but obſerve, that the Preſident hath given us numberleſs inſtances of plans prepared in the Cabinet and hurried through the Board, ſuch as the letter per Ankerwyke, which ought to have been the effect of deliberation. The motions, for the Preſident going to Tanjour, his powers, his diary, his motion for ſending the Nabob to Arcot, the Chief and Council for Tanjour, &c. and we may alſo ſay, every motion he has oppoſed, has been delayed for conſideration from day to day; and ſince the Preſident hath ſaid the majority put a negative on every meaſure he recommends, we take this opportunity of aſſuring him, that whenever he ſhall propoſe meaſures to the Board, which we in our conſciences can approve, he ſhall meet with all our ſupport; and whether, in our duty to the publick, we could or could not ſupport the meaſures we have oppoſed, the Court of Directors will be able to determine.

We have ſo often heard from the Preſident and Mr. Dalrymple of the Council being appointed to aſſiſt the Preſident, that we are not ſurprized to hear the Preſident ſpeak of his *particular reſponſibility*. We will, to ſhew the futility of this opinion, inſert the following ſtanding order, al-

though the very conſtitution of the Company is ſo clear as to render it quite unneceſſary to any one who does not wilfully refute conviction. The requiſition of the Preſident, that Mr. Ruſſell ſhall proceed to Tanjour, and his refuſal of aſſent to Col. Stuart's going to Tanjour until Mr. Ruſſell goes thither, are equally extraordinary, and equally inadmiſſible.

Standing orders from England, January 3, 1678, *Par.* 54.

" WHATEVER ſhall be agreed on by the majority, ſhall be eſteemed " the order by which each one is to act; and accordingly every individual " perſon, even the diſſenters themſelves, are to perform their parts in the " proſecution thereof, and in ſo doing they do their duty, and muſt not " be blamed for the event."

9th March, 1702, *Paragraph* 2, *of the inſtructions to Mr. Pitt, &c.*

WE do ſtrictly enjoin, that all our affairs be tranſacted in Council, and ordered and managed as the majority of the Council ſhall determine, and not otherwiſe upon any pretence whatever, &c. &c.

When Lord Pigot came to Council on the Auguſt, we underſtood, that on the evening he ſummoned the Council on a different buſineſs from that on which they had adjourned; he knew not that Meſſrs. Ruſſell and Dalrymple intended to write the letters which are before the board. On the conſultation of Monday, he has recorded, that he gave Mr. Ruſſell the information touching the *nocturnal viſits*, which Mr. Ruſſell has introduced into his letter, and on which he has founded that extraordinary motion he recorded on Conſultation, as the third he intended to make; let theſe circumſtances ſpeak for themſelves.

Before we enter farther into the ſubject of the motions, it may not be unneceſſary to make ſome obſervation touching the alarms of which the Rajah's

Rajah's mind ought to be quieted. We have in the Military Department given an opinion, that no ſuch alarms exiſt; but that if the Rajah has alarms, the Preſident ought to have explained them to the Board, that proper remedy might be applied. We know not of any; but we cannot help ſaying, that if any could exiſt, they moſt likely have ſprung from the delay of communication of the reſolution of the Board of the 14th June, as ſuch delay may carry with it an air of miſtery, and might raiſe ſuſpicions; but even in this caſe, the blame would fall on the Preſident, who ought, when at Tanjore, to have informed the Rajah, there were demands of Tunkedar's, Mortgages, &c. and that he could not of himſelf determine the validity of thoſe claims. But if alarms ariſing from this exiſt, the moſt likely method to remove them will be, without more delay, to tell the Rajah, that he ought to have been informed of theſe demands from the Preſident when at Tanjour. That we have conſidered the ſubject, and are of opinion, that the demands on the crop are conſiſtent with reaſon, juſtice, and the Company's orders; that in conſequence he ought to aſcertain what the produce hath been, and fix upon periods for paying the ſame, as his finances will beſt admit. That the Company mean to do *ſtrict juſtice* to the Rajah, *as he may clearly ſee by the orders which have taken the country from the Nabob, and reſtored it to him*; that the whole of the board have not agreed in opinion touching the grain on the ground, but that our proceedings go to the Court of Directors, to whom, if he thinks proper, we ſhall be ready faithfully to repreſent every circumſtance he may deſire; that their favorable diſpoſition towards him cannot be doubted, and that, if they ſhould judge this Government has erred, they may reverſe that judgment. To which we ſhould add, that the Court of Directors thinking the Company Guarantees of the treaty of 1762, *We are conſequently as much in duty bound to ſupport his juſt rights againſt the Nabob*, as the Nabob againſt Hyder, or any other of the Country or European Powers.

When the Company directed us to carry into execution a plan, which they were apprehenſive might bring on conſequences of the utmoſt

moſt importance, they judged the Board competent to determine upon it; and can we with propriety, when that buſineſs of importance is finiſhed, when we have on mature conſideration reſolved that the Committee of circuit ſhall immediately ſet out, when we know that the buſineſs of the Northern ſettlements is of great conſequence to the Company, loſe a moment in a debate, whether we ſhall call up the Chiefs from the Northward or not? We have heard of the alarms of the Rajah, of the oppreſſions of the Nabob, of abuſes exiſting in the ſettlement, but with a Council inferior in number, the buſineſs of the Company on emergent occaſions hath been well conducted; we have denied the exiſtence of juſt alarms, we are convinced of our intention to do the inhabitants of the Jaguire as well as the Company ſtrict juſtice; and we think ourſelves competent to redreſs any grievances or alarms, which may have occured at the Preſidency; we therefore could not heſitate a moment in refuſing conſent to his firſt motion; but what ſhall we ſay of the third? Can any thing more ſtrongly mark the very extraordinary diſpoſition and deſigns of the Preſident, than that motion, that if the *nocturnal viſits* were made to Members of the Council they ſhould ſtand ſuſpended? The Preſident could not but remember that the Majority had determined the reſolution of touching the Nabob and his ſons, ſtood legally, if not formally reſcinded; but he endeavours to avail himſelf of the want of form, thereby reproaching thoſe Members who failed in the execution of their duty, and who did not exert their rights, by inſiſting upon the Preſident's putting the queſtion for reſcinding that reſolution. Unwilling to proceed to extremities, they adopted a mode they judged likely to anſwer the end without it; but the Preſident ſays, when he ſhall ſee an opportunity, which ſuits with the intereſt of the Company, and he is well perſuaded he can bring the puniſhment home, he will produce the offenders, and not till then. This is the return for our moderation, and that delicacy we have ſhewn the Preſident, and which is but one of the many inſtances we might quote. This ſhews the neceſſity of a ſtrict adherence to the principles of our conſtitution; but we hope the Preſi-

dent

dent will not put us to ſuch another trial. When the Company ſhall read, that notwithſtanding their orders to Bengal, that a man ſhall have a copy of the charge againſt him, time to anſwer, and croſs queſtion the witneſs, *one of their Preſidents ſhall endeavour to paſs an order to condemn men unknown, unheard, on a ſpecies of offence not admitted as an offence by the majority of the Board,* they cannot but be aſtoniſhed. If the motion had paſſed into a reſolution, it would have reflected on thoſe who had paſſed it; for it is contrary to humanity and juſtice, the characteriſticks of a free ſtate; and only to be reconciled to the cuſtoms of thoſe arbitrary Courts, where men have formerly been tried and condemned unheard.

George Stratton,
Robert Fletcher,
Henry Brooke,
Charles Floyer,
Archdale Palmer,
Francis Jourdan,
George Mackay.

The Preſident obſerves, on the firſt part of the above minute, which relates to Mr. Ruſſell, that that gentleman was, by a former reſolution of the Board, appointed reſident at Tanjore, although one of the Committee of circuit; that this reſolution has never been reſcinded; and therefore he ſhould have thought Mr. Ruſſell at liberty to go to Tanjore without infringing any ſubſequent reſolution, provided he could be back in time to proceed on the circuit within the period fixed for his departure. That notwithſtanding he, the Preſident, was of this opinion, he had before mentioned his wiſh, that Mr. Ruſſell might have expreſs permiſſion from the Board to proceed for a few days to Tanjore; but as nothing of that kind is yet recorded, he now repeats his requeſt, and deſires the ſentiments of the Board upon it.

Mr. Mackay. I am againſt Mr. Ruſſell's going to Tanjore, and will deliver in a minute on the ſubject.

Mr. Jourdan. As I never have conſented to Mr. Ruſſell's going to Tanjore, for reaſons before entered in conſultation, ſo I cannot with propriety give my conſent to it at this time.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer againſt it, and will deliver in a minute.

Mr. Stone for it.

Mr. Floyer. I am againſt it, for the reaſons I have before aſſigned, as well as that Mr. Ruſſell has ſaid he ſhall not be ready to go on the circuit before the 1ſt October.

Mr. Dalrymple for it.

Mr. Ruſſell for it.

Mr. Brooke againſt it, for the reaſons aſſigned by Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Stratton againſt it.

Preſident for it.

Agreed by a majority of 6 to 4, that Mr. Ruſſell be not permitted to go to Tanjore.

George Stratton,
Henry Brooke,
———————
———————
Charles Floyer,
———————
Archdale Palmer,
Francis Jourdan,
George Mackay,
Pigot.

Fort

Fort St. George, 16th Auguſt, 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION.

Rev. Depart-ment.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident.

George Stratton, General Sir Robert Fletcher, Friday 16th.
Henry Brooke, Claud Ruſſell,
Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone,
Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan,
George Mackay.

Minutes of laſt conſultation read.

Mr. Jourdan delivers in the following minute, in reply to that part of the Preſident's minute of the 5th inſtant, which reſpects him.

Mr. Jourdan thinks it neceſſary to deliver in the following minute on the ſubject of the circuit, which he had prepared to have laid before the board, but the diſputes which occurred prevented him from doing it. Minute of Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Jourdan begs leave to obſerve, that Lord Pigot has miſunderſtood him, if he imagined that he wanted to take from the committee of circuit, what the Council had entruſted to them: All Mr. Jourdan meant was, that while the gentlemen were acting to the northward, the committee of revenue might collect and arrange the accounts againſt their return. Lord Pigot's minute carries with it an implication of want of zeal in Mr. Jourdan for the ſervice, in having declined the vacancy in the committee of circuit. Mr. Jourdan hopes he may, without being preſumptuous, ſay, that he has ſhewn as much attention and zeal

to

to the ſervice of the Company as any of the members of the board, and that the board have been pleaſed to confer upon him, on that account, marks of their favour. He does alſo further declare, that having applied himſelf very particularly to the affairs of the Company at the preſidency, he thinks he can render them more eſſential ſervice by remaining here than by going upon the circuit, otherwiſe he ſhould not have wiſhed to decline it.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Ruſſell enters the following minute.

Minute of Mr. Ruſſell.

Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, and Meſſrs. Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, in their minute of the 9th inſtant, found an opinion upon my letter of the 1ſt, and the declarations I made at the Board the that there will appear to the Court of Directors an unwillingneſs in me to ſet out upon the circuit. I muſt remark in reply, that my letter was before the Board, when I was acquitted of backwardneſs in my duty to the Company, and that thoſe gentlemen in this very minute, acknowledge, that it would have been *diſtreſſing* us to fix our departure for 15 days, and therefore extended it to 30. On urgent occaſions, private conſiderations ought not to have any weight with this Board, and I ſhould hope no member is capable of making them a plea for declining publick ſervice. For my own part, I expreſſed my readineſs to go to the ſouthward agreeably to the Preſident's requeſt; but in the preſent inſtance, the ſhort time allowed us being meant only to fruſtrate a former reſolution of the Board, I ſubmit to the Court of Directors, whether more regard ought not to have been paid to the declarations I made, and whether more time might not reaſonably have been expected after I had made my arrangements for going to Tanjore in conſequence of ſuch reſolution, and had even ſent part of my baggage thither?

I chearfully

I chearfully appeal likewiſe to the Court of Directors, whether my declaring, *under ſuch circumſtances*, that inſtead of the 1ſt September I could not poſſibly be ready before the 1ſt October, to go to the northern extremity of the Company's poſſeſſions, on a ſervice which will require years to execute, or Mr. Jourdan's reaſons (26th July) for declining that ſervice, and Mr. Mackay's letter of the 29th July, indicate moſt unwillingneſs?

With equal chearfulneſs I further ſubmit to the Court of Directors the propriety of what theſe gentlemen term a *remonſtrance*. Theſe gentlemen ſurely cannot mean to deny that a Member of the Board has a right to expreſs his ſentiments, nay more, to *remonſtrate*, or even *proteſt*. What I ſaid was founded on public grounds; and as the appointment for Tanjore, which ſtill exiſted, appears highly expedient, I did hope that it would firſt take place; and the more ſo, as it was ſo underſtood at the time the appointment was made.

Theſe gentlemen do Mr. Dawſon great injuſtice, in ſuppoſing he gave the information mentioned in my letter to be brought forth at a future time; I declare ſuch was never his intention, and it is a thing ſelf-evident that it could not be, for he did not dream, more than myſelf, that the appointment of a Reſident at Tanjour would have been overſet after his departure; if he had, probably he would have laid open to the Board the various means taken with him to vote againſt that appointment.

PIGOT.
GEO. STRATTON,
HENRY BROOKE,
CLAUD RUSSELL.
ARCHDALE PALMER,
FRANCIS JOURDAN,
GEO. MACKAY.

Tranſlation of a Letter from the Nabob to Mr. Stratton, acting Governor at Madraſs; dated and received the 27th April, 1776.

Received per Grenville, 26th April, 1777.

Letter from the Nabob apprehenſive that Lord Pigot will put the King of Tanjore in poſſeſſion of ſome diſtricts of Ramnaut and Shokungee.

In my letter to you of the 21ſt April,‡ I informed you of the uneaſineſs I ſuffered. I now hear that ſome of the Company's Seapoys are on the point of marching, to take poſſeſſion of ſome diſtricts of Ramnaut and Shokungee, on a groundleſs repreſentation made by Tulgajee, that they belong to Tanjore. The diſtricts of Ramnaut and Shokungee are quite diſtinct, and appertain in no manner whatever to Tanjore. Tulgajee, through pride and want of moderation, attempted formerly, in Mr. Dupre's Government, to get poſſeſſion of the above-mentioned diſtricts, and for that reaſon was puniſhed; he then diſclaimed all future pretentions to them in writing; I am aſtoniſhed that Seapoys ſhould now be ſent on the miſrepreſentations of Tulgejee. Before Lord Pigot ſet out, I wrote to all my Amuldars in the Tanjore country, charging them ſtrictly not to oppoſe any people that might be ſent by his Lordſhip; and my people accordingly, notwithſtanding they were a ſtrong party did not oppoſe any of Lord Pigot's guards, but ſubmitted without reſiſtance to confinement, although they ſuffered worſe treatment than is ſhewn to an enemy, and ſome of my principal people were confined with diſgrace. As it is notorious that the Ramnaut and Shokungee diſtricts do not in any manner belong to Tanjore, inſomuch that every child in the Carnatick knows it, I have not hitherto thought it neceſſary to ſend any orders to my Amuldars in thoſe diſtricts; I therefore have now recourſe to you, and ſhall write to them whatever you may direct; do me the favour to inform me ſpeedily, what inſtructions I ſhall ſend them on the points that have occaſioned my writing you this Letter.

What can I ſay more?

Extract of Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, received at Fort St. George, 15th May, 1776, and received in London per Grenville, 25th April, 1777.

The Nabob continues to have Seapoys ſtationed at Shacaloor, Hanamantagoody, and Mungalacot, and when any people hang up a flag in thoſe places,

‡ See Vol. I. page 112.

places, to ſignify that they belong to me, the Renter Marcai pulls them down by force, and tears them to pieces; he likewiſe ſeized the renter of Vellampad, put him on board a boat, and beat him very ſeverely; he and his people are guilty of many ſuch irregularities; I hope your Lordſhip will puniſh them accordingly, and order theſe countries to be delivered over to me. My fort, my kingdom, and myſelf, do all belong to your Lordſhip. I always obey your commands, and therefore write theſe things for your information.

One lack and 30,000 columns of grain had arrived on the Coaſt the 9th May, and there is more going there daily; if there were boats and donies ready to receive it, the bullocks would quickly return, and the whole would arrive ſoon. I am afraid that rain will fall, and that the grain will be damaged, which induces me to write ſo often. Continue to write to me of your welfare that my heart may be at reſt.

What can I write more?

A Note encloſed.

Sea port of Trimalarajapatam is ſituated near the Subah of Majavaram, for which reaſon we ſent above 10,000 columns of Paddy to the ſaid port, in order to be ſent to Madraſs. As that ſaid port belonged to the people of Caricol, † they put a ſtop to the ſaid paddy and bullocks. You will be pleaſed to order it ſo, that they may return the ſaid paddy and bullocks; we ſhall hereafter ſend no more paddy to the ſaid port.

From the GOVERNOR to the RAJAH of TANJORE.

SIR,

Your Letter of the 7th of May made me very happy. I am glad to hear Yazarventarow Sooria Vainſey is returned to Tanjore; and I have read with much ſatisfaction the letter from Hyder Ally ‡ Cawn to you; every favour and mark of reſpect he is pleaſed to ſhew to you I eſteem as done to myſelf, and it will ſtrengthen the friendſhip between us.

I obſerve

† Caricol or Karicall belongs to the French.

‡ See the laſt page.

I obſerve by your letter of the 9th, that Bal kiſtna Shaiſtree from the Marattas was come to wait upon you : it is very pleaſing to me to hear of theſe congratulations from your friends; and I am well acquainted how proper your attention will be to them.

I am glad to find that ſo many of your truſty ſervants have returned to you, as has enabled you to entertain the Spearmen and Delayatts' you mention; and I am happy to find you are about repairing thoſe fine buildings which of late have been ſo much injured.

I obſerve what you are pleaſed to write in your letter concerning the *Maloor Calva*; and I will take the neceſſary meaſures to keep that Channel in that ſtate it has been theſe two years paſt.

I will write to the Officer in Hanamantagoody to put your people in poſſeſſion of that place; and like orders ſhall be ſent concerning Sacaloor and Mangalacotah, and I will make the neceſſary enquiries concerning the Chollair.

I will write to Colonel Harper to endeavour to ſecure ſome of thoſe robbers you mention, that they may be puniſhed in a proper manner; and I hope Tondaman ‡ will pay that regard to the advice I ſhall give him, as will prevent any improper behaviour in the Polygars.

Proper people are ordered to receive the Paddy, and I hope they will be diligent in that buſineſs.

I have procured for you a fowling piece, which is plain and neat, and very proper for a ſportſman. The thoughts of your taking theſe amuſements gives me great ſatisfaction,

I remain with the greateſt eſteem,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervant.

‡ Nalcooty Pollygar.

Extract of Fort St. George Military Conſultations, 30th July, 1776.

Sir Robert Fletcher delivers in the following Minute.

In conſequence of my minute delivered in ———, and the reſolution of the Board thereupon, I ſhall proceed to point out the impediments I have to complain of, and to make reference to the ſeveral inſtances, wherein I think the powers to be exerciſed by the Military Commander in Chief, as explained and defined by the Inſtructions, have been ſuperſeded; and as the ſubject is of the firſt importance to the ſervice, I truſt the ſeveral members will examine with attention the real purpoſes meant by the Honourable Company to be attained, when they judged it neceſſary to define and ſeparate the line of duty of the Military Commander in Chief from the former involved ſyſtem, which, to uſe their own words, *had occaſioned great injury to the ſervice.*

The moſt conciſe method I can propoſe to the Board is, to ſtate the ſeveral caſes where I conceive the Inſtructions have been directly broke through, or the plain meaning of them fruſtrated, placing on the ſame page the Inſtructions alluded to: and, in order to convince the Board that my views never carried me to aſſume more power than the Honourable Company meant to be annexed to my ſtation, I ſhall, in column third, lay before the Board the Queſtions I put to General Clavering, with his Anſwers now in my poſſeſſion.

INSTRUCTIONS.

ARTICLE 42d.

" That all orders within the Garriſon of Fort-William and town of " Calcutta, except ſuch as relate to regimental detail, and to military " diſcipline, or to the defence of the Fort, be given in the name of the " Governor-General, who ſhall keep the keys of the Fort, and give the " parole; but orders reſpecting regimental detail and diſcipline of the " Army in general, including the Garriſon of Fort-William, and Troops

" ſtationed in the town of Calcutta, ſhall be given in the name of the " Military Commander in Chief, or, in his abſence, in the name of the " ſuperior military Officer doing duty at Fort-William for the time " being, who ſhall communicate all ſuch orders to the Governor-General " by his Aid de Camp, or other proper Officer, for his approbation, be- " fore they be iſſued in the ſaid Garriſon, or in the town of Calcutta."

ARTICLE 51ſt.

" That if the Governor-General and Council ſhall at any time think " proper to iſſue orders, under their hands, or by their Secretary, to any " Officer in the Army, and thereby ſuſpend, or ſuperſede the ſpecifick " commands of the Governor-General, or Military Commander in Chief, " ſuch orders ſhall be implicitly obeyed."

CASES.

CASE 1ſt.

There can be no doubt, but that the order for a Naig and three Seapoys, to be furniſhed from each Battalion towards forming a Company of Markſmen, comes under the head of military detail and diſcipline of the Army in general; nevertheleſs the Chief and Council of Ganjam did actually countermand my orders to the Officers commanding Seapoy Battalions in the Ichapore diſtrict: they writ publickly to the Board that they had done ſo, and there the matter ſtill reſts. The Chief and Council of Ganjam took this ſtep on the ſuppoſition, perhaps, that they have the ſame power as the Governor and Council to ſuperſede the ſpecifick orders of the Commander in Chief, which power the Board itſelf, as I conceive the Company's Orders, is only to exerciſe, by iſſuing orders under their own hands, or by their Secretary. It is this authority aſſumed by the Chief and Council of Ganjam, which I feel to interfere with the duty of my office, and which is a contradiction to the Company's Inſtructions.

Queries

Queries put by Sir Robert Fletcher to General Clavering, with General Clavering's Anſwers.

QUERIES.

Query. "Can General Clavering remove any man or men from one "corps to another, without the approbation of the Chiefs and Council "in diſtricts under the ſubordinates? or can he make ſuch removals in the "other corps in the Army, without firſt applying to the Board?"

Anſwer. The Commander in Chief, by virtue of the 42d Article of the Company's Inſtructions, removes Officers and Soldiers from one corps to another, as he imagines will be moſt conducive to military diſcipline and the good of the ſervice, without either applying to the Chiefs of ſubordinates or to the Board. This authority was exerciſed before his arrival, either by the Commander in Chief or by the Governor.

Query. "Do General Clavering's orders from Calcutta to the Troops "at Patna, and the other ſubordinates, go through the Chiefs and Coun-"cil; and do ſuch orders receive any authority but that of General "Clavering, before they go from the Preſidency?"

Anſwer. "When reſolutions are taken in Council which regard the "Army, a tranſcript of thoſe reſolutions is ſent to the Military Com-"mander in Chief by the Secretary, and he iſſues them to every Brigade, "and to every ſtation, including the reſidencies of the Chiefs and Coun-"cils. General Clavering's orders never go through the Chiefs and Coun-"cils, nor do they receive any authority but that which is above-men-"tioned."

CASE 2d.

Another inſtance where I felt an interference with my duty ariſes from the following complimentary note of the Right Honourable Preſi-dent, viz.

Note,

Note. " Lord Pigot's compliments to Sir Robert Fletcher, and deſires " that half of the Markſmen may do duty at the Company's Gar- " dens, and half at Sir Robert's, and that all other Seapoys may " join their battalions, as it has been repreſented that they are " wanted for other duty."

Vide the late Inſtructions from England, and the Commiſſion of the Governor and Commander in Chief reſpectively.

The conſtruction I put upon the note, confirmed by the ſubſequent converſation between the Governor and my Aid de Camp, was, that without any order of the Board, Lord Pigot did actually interfere with the regimental detail and diſcipline of the army in general perſonally in ſome degree to me, in taking upon himſelf the diſpoſal of my guard, as well as a ſelect body of troops, which never made part of the garriſon of Fort St. George; but as the Governor has ſince ſaid to me, that it was not meant as an order, I mention it here that the line may be clearly known, and the Commander in Chief not ſubjected in future to ſuch embarraſſments. Thoſe who chooſe to examine the (written) converſation, which paſſed between the Governor and my Aid de Camp, upon the matter, and my conduct in conſequence of that converſation, will ſee, that I acted as if the *note* had been an order, and in contradiction to my own ſentiments, expreſſed in the meſſage I ſent by my Aid de Camp to the Governor.

QUERIES.

Query. If General Clavering were at or near a ſubordinate, is he ſubject to the orders of the Chief and Council? or is he ſubject to any orders but thoſe of the Governor-General and Council?

Anſwer. The Commander in Chief is not ſubject to the orders of the Chief and Council, either at or near the ſubordinates. He and all Commanding Officers are directed by the 54th Article of the Inſtructions, to comply with ſuch requiſitions as ſhall be made by the Company's chief civil ſervants for troops. In drawing up this Article the Court of Directors have ſtrictly conformed to the practice in England, where all Military Officers are directed to lend aſſiſtance, when required, to the Civil Officers. General Clavering thinks himſelf not ſubject to any other orders in Bengal, but thoſe of the Governor-General and Council, excepting ſuch as he may receive from the Honourable the Court of Directors.

AR-

ARTICLE 45th.

" That temporary leave of abſence in time of peace be granted by the " Governor-General to Officers doing duty in the garriſon of Fort William, " or Town of Calcutta, and to all other officers by the Military Com- " mander in Chief of the Company's forces in Bengal, Bahar, and Oriſſa, " but ſuch leave of abſence ſhall in no caſe be extended beyond the " limits of the ſaid Provinces." Vide alſo the 42d Article quoted on Caſe 1ſt.

CASE 3d.

My powers of granting leave of abſence are defined with preciſion in the 45th Article, and yet it is a fact, that Officers doing duty in the diſtricts under the reſpective Chiefſhips cannot avail themſelves of this permiſſion, without previouſly having the permiſſion of the Chief and Council. If an Officer, thus authoriſed to abſent himſelf, is, notwithſtanding, to look to any other quarter for a confirmation of that authority, it is not fair argument to ſay, that the Chiefs, &c. thus aſſume a right to put a negative on my orders, contrary to the expreſs terms of the Inſtructions, and actually interfere in the military detail of the army: and on this occaſion I muſt add, that ſome of the gentlemen to the northward have actually given leave of abſence, independent of me.

Query. " Who grants leave of abſence to Officers in and near to " Patna, and other places, where there is a Chief and Council? and can " General Clavering grant ſuch leave, independent of the Chiefs and " Councils?"

Anſwer. " The Chief and Council at Patna, or at any other place " within theſe provinces, do not grant leave of abſence to Officers. Con- " formable to the 45th paragraph of the Court of Directors' Inſtructions, " temporary leave of abſence is granted by the Governor-General to Offi- " cers doing duty in the garriſon of Fort William, or Town of Calcutta, " and by the Military Commander in Chief of the Company's forces in " Bengal, Bahar, and Oriſſa, to all other officers. No doubt can ariſe on " the interpretation of this article."

ARTICLE 49th.

" That every reſolution of the Governor-General and Council reſpect-
" ing the promotion or diſmiſſion of Military Officers be communicated
" to the Commander in Chief in writing, and iſſued in general orders by
" the Governor-General in the garriſon of Fort William and Town of
" Calcutta, and to the reſt of the army by the Military Commander in
" Chief for the time being."

CASE 4th.

When the Company ſo clearly point out the channel through which they order the moſt material and important objects on which the whole conſtitution of an army turns, ſuch as the promotion and diſmiſſion of officers of all ranks, can there be a doubt of their intention, that in all other caſes (thoſe only excepted as mentioned in the Inſtructions) the ſame channel of the commander in chief is to be the medium through which the orders of the Board are to be conveyed to the army? I conſider therefore, as tending to leſſen my juſt authority with the army, and an impediment in the line of my duty, the iſſuing the orders of the Board through the Secretary to the ——for example,

1ſt. For the march of the European battalion and two battalions of Seapoys to take poſſeſſion of Tanjore.

2d. For the 1ſt and 3d battalions of ſeapoys to be held in readineſs to march when the proſecution of the Maratta War was ordered from Bengal.

3d. For the relief of the garriſon of Vellum, and afterwards detaching part of that garriſon to Trichinopoly: and,

4th. For the march of the European invalids and penſioners from Chingleput to Madraſs.

I muſt here do the Preſident the juſtice to ſay, that he did expreſs himſelf upon the mode of iſſuing the orders agreeably to the late Inſtructions.

Query.

Query‡. "Do General Clavering's orders from Calcutta to the troops at "Patna, and to the other ſubordinates, go through the Chief and Council? "and do ſuch orders receive any authority but that of General Clavering, "before they go from the Preſidency?"

Anſwer. "When the reſolutions are taken in Council with regard to the "army, a tranſcript of thoſe reſolutions is ſent to the Commander in Chief "by the Secretary, and he iſſues them to every Brigade, and to every "ſtation, including the reſidencies of the Chiefs and Councils. General "Clavering's orders never go through the Chief and Council, nor do they "receive any authority but that which is above-mentioned."

ARTICLE 50th.

"That all plans or regulations formed by the Military Commander in "Chief in time of peace, reſpecting the diſpoſition of the Company's troops "in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Oriſſa, be approved by the Gover-"nor-General and Council before they be carried into execution."— Vide alſo 49th article above quoted.

CASE 5th.

In January laſt, when it became neceſſary to carry into effect the reſolution of the Board, upon a plan propoſed by General Smith, for relieving the Seapoy battalions in the Mazulipatam circars every two years, inſtead of annually, the orders for this purpoſe were communicated to the Commandants of the different garriſons, by the Chief and Council of Mazulipatam.

In order to ſhew the Board the conſequence attending this irregular channel of communicating military orders, I obſerve, that Lieutenant Walker, commanding Condapilly, at the time the above relief took place, addreſſed Colonel Flint, then commanding officer in the Mazulipatam circars to the following effect, viz. That he was informed by the Chief and Council of Mazulipatam, that they had ordered Lieutenant Clarke to march with three companies of Seapoys to relieve him in the command of Condapilly, and that he deſired to know from him (Colonel Flint) whether or not he

‡ This Query and the Anſwer being the ſame as Caſe the 1ſt ſeems improper; but it is conformable to the original.

he ſhould deliver up the fort to Lieutenant Clarke. "Colonel Flint, in an- "ſwer, directed Lieutenant Walker, leſt the ſervice ſhould ſuffer by his "maintaining the fort, to deliver the charge to Lieutenant Clarke." It is evident, from the orders of the Board communicated by letter, under the hand of their Secretary, dated 4th November, 1774, to Colonel Flint, to ſend orders (and ſtrongly expreſſive of his having the power to do ſo) to the garriſons of Samul Cotah and Condapilly; I ſay, it is evident, that had Lieutenant Walker refuſed to give up the fort, unleſs ordered to do ſo, through the channel of the authority by which he was judged to hold the command, his conduct would have been entirely conſonant to the articles of war, in a ſtrict obedience to the orders of his ſuperior officer. This occurrence might have happened in a critical ſituation of affairs, and it is needleſs for me to point out the detriment which might in that caſe have happened to the ſervice.

Vide the Query and Anſwer quoted in Caſe 4th.

ARTICLE 52d.

"That the keys of all the ſubordinate factories belonging to Fort- "William in Bengal, ſhall be kept by ſuch perſons as the Governor-Gene- "ral and Council ſhall pleaſe to appoint, but in all barracks or canton- "ments the keys ſhall be kept by the commanding officer of the troops."

Vide preamble to the articles of war, for the better government of the officers and ſoldiers in the ſervice of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies.

CASE 6th.

The only military power which by the Inſtructions the Board can give to the chiefs of factories, is that of keeping the keys of the fort; yet in the general orders iſſued by the Board, of date the 26th October, 1774, it is directed, that "The chief civil ſervant ſhall receive returns of the troops "from the military commanding officer.

The

The Chiefs of ſubordinates order and approve garriſon Courts Martial. By a warrant dated the 30th March, 1763, theGovernor andCouncil of each Preſidency are empowered by the Court of Directors, by virtue of a warrant from the King, to authoriſe the Commander in Chief of each detachment of their forces to hold Courts Martial; and in my opinion they can delegate a power either for general or garriſon Courts Martial, to no perſon or perſons who do not hold military commiſſions.

QUERY.

Can the Chiefs and Councils of ſubordinates order Courts Martial?

Anſwer. By a warrant dated the 30th March, 1763, the Governor and Council of each Preſidency are empowered by the Court of Directors, by virtue of a warrant from the King, to authoriſe the Commander in Chief of each detachment of their forces to hold Courts Martial: I conceive Courts Martial held by any other authority to be illegal.

ARTICLE 54th.

"That the Commander in Chief, or ſuperior Military Officer in every "diſtrict, be expreſsly ordered by the Governor-General and Council, to "comply with ſuch requiſitions as ſhall be made by the Company's chief "Civil Servants for troops, in all caſes where military aſſiſtance may be "neceſſary; and in every ſuch requiſition, the chief Civil Servant ſhall ex-"plain to the Military Officer, in writing, ſo far as may be practicable, the "nature of the ſervice to be performed; but the mode of carrying it into "execution, and the number of troops and quantity of ſtores requiſite for "that purpoſe ſhall be determined by the Chief and Council; and in all "ſubordinates, where there ſhall not be an eſtabliſhment of a Chief and "Council, the ſame ſhall be left to the judgment of the Military Officer, "in whom the executive power is inveſted."

CASE 7th.

Though it does not appear that Military Commanding Officers are to comply with any thing but requiſitions for Military aſſiſtance, when it ſhall

be thought neceſſary, yet in the general orders iſſued by the Board, of date the 26th October, 1774, Military Commanding Officers in the ſubordinate diſtricts are directed to make returns, &c. to the Chiefs and Council, which is acknowledging the Chief and Council to be poſſeſſed of the ſame powers that by the former ſyſtem were exerciſed by the Chief alone, and which appear to have been taken from them by the late Inſtructions from home.

QUERY.

"If General Clavering were at or near a ſubordinate, is he ſubject "to the orders of the Chief and Council? or is he ever ſubject to any or- "ders but thoſe of the Governor-General and Council?"

Anſwer. "The Commander in Chief is not ſubject to the orders of the "Chief and Council, either at or near the ſubordinates."

"He and all Commanding Officers are directed by the 54th article of "the Inſtructions, to comply with ſuch requiſitions as ſhall be made by the "Company's chief Civil Servants for troops. In drawing up this article, "the Court of Directors have ſtrictly conformed to the practice in Eng- "land, where all Military Officers are directed to lend aſſiſtance when re- "quired to the Civil Officers. General Clavering thinks himſelf not ſubject "to any other orders in Bengal but thoſe of the Governor-General and "Council, excepting ſuch as he may receive from the Honourable Court "of Directors."

ARTICLE 43d.

"That in caſe Fort-William, or the town of Calcutta, ſhall at any time be "attacked or inveſted by an enemy, the keys ſhall be delivered to the "Military Commander in Chief, and the ſeparate Military authority of our "Governor-General ſhall be entirely ſuſpended and ceaſe, until ſuch enemy "ſhall be repelled and no longer; and if the Governor-General and Mili- "tary Commander in Chief ſhall in either of the before-mentioned caſes "differ in opinion, reſpecting the exact time when the exerciſe of the "Governor-General's power ſhould be ſuſpended or reſumed, the Governor- "General and Council ſhall finally decide thereupon."

ARTICLE

ARTICLE 53d.

"That in case of the attack of any subordinate factory in Bengal, Bahar, or Orissa, the keys shall be delivered to the Commander in Chief, or in his absence to the superior Military Officer present at such factory; the mode of defence left entirely to his judgment, and the whole executive Military power vested in him 'till the enemy shall be repelled, subject however at all times to the control of the Governor-General and Council, or of the Military Commander in Chief."

CASE 8th.

The intelligence received by the Board of the hostile preparations of the French in India induced me to exercise what I judge a very essential part of my duty to the Company, viz. An enquiry into the state of the fortifications, provisions, and stores of the different forts garrisoned by our troops. In this enquiry I have met with obstructions. I have not yet received a state of the fortifications, provisions and stores of Masulipatam; the Civil Servants in that Chiefship being of opinion, that the information relative to the provisions and stores should not be required through the channel of the Commander in Chief. Though I have received a state of the fortifications, &c. of Cuddalore, it is here necessary to lay before the Board the *conditional* footing on which the information was given to Captain Tonyn, the Commandant of that garrison: this will best appear by a copy of his letter to me on that subject.

Copy of Captain Tonyn's Letter to the Commander in Chief, dated Cuddalore, 3d June, 1776.

SIR,

In compliance with your orders signified to me by your Secretary, I now have the honour to transmit a state of the fortifications of Cuddalore, shewing the repairs which are requisite for the defence of the Fort, so nearly as I can judge, likewise a state of the military stores; grain and provisions there are none for the use of the garrison. When in consequence of the directions I received, I sent an order to the Military Storekeeper of this garrison,

riſon, to furniſh me with a return of the proviſions and grain laid in for the uſe of the garriſon, previous to my examining the articles and requiring him to have the military ſtores in readineſs for my inſpection, I received an anſwer to the following purport; "That he was much ſurprized at having "orders ſent to him from me, not knowing that he was under my au- "thority or direction; however, leſt the public ſervice ſhould ſuffer any "impediment, he had directed the ſtore ſerjeant to attend at the ſtore-rooms, "and ſhew me the ſtores;" regarding the grain and proviſions I was referred to the Chief.

As the ſtorekeeper acts in a military capacity, I apprehend he conſequently becomes ſubject to the orders, and under the authority of the Commandant of the garriſon; but as the ſtorekeeper of this garriſon ſeems to be of another opinion, I beg to know how far the Military Storekeeper can be conſidered as independent of the Commandant.

I am with reſpect,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed)

J. Col. TONYN.

Vide Article 22d of the Articles of War for the better government of the Officers and Soldiers in the ſervice of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies.

I conceive the Company's military eſtabliſhment ought to be governed by the articles of war, in all caſes where they are authoriſed by the State to enforce them; the practice of the Britiſh army is the beſt rule to follow, in every caſe where doubts ariſe as to the mode of acting toward civil ſervants in their capacities of Surgeons, Paymaſters, Commiſſaries, and Storekeepers, *where a Military Officer commands.* There is no doubt that perſons acting under this deſcription are conſidered as followers of the army, and treated as ſuch in the Britiſh ſervice; and in particular, that ſuch perſons cannot abſent themſelves from their ſtation without the leave of the Commander in Chief. The article of war here alluded to applies to the care of forces in the field: the queſtion remains, whether perſons ſerving in the above capacities in cantonment or garriſons, under a Military Commander, are

are not included under the deſcription of the 22d article of war, and whether they are not upon this Coaſt as much under the authority of the Commander in Chief, as they are and have been in Bengal ever ſince the troops were regimented.

QUERY.

Query. "Is it General Clavering, or the Board, that grants leave of "abſence to Paymaſters and Surgeons of corps ſtationed out of Calcutta, "and Fort William?"

Anſwer. "The Paymaſters and Surgeons are conſidered as forming "part of the army."——Vide "Anſwer to Query (quoted on Caſe ſecond) beginning, "Who grants leave of abſence, &c."

CASE 9th.

The following movement of the troops and general orders took place by the immediate order of the Right Honourable Preſident, given in his own name in a military character; and it will be found that his Lordſhip acted in that character, and iſſued orders not only to Colonel Harper, but to other Officers in his own name, both before and after the reſtoration of the Rajah at Tanjore. Theſe movements and orders were put in execution without any communication with the Board, and were at that time totally unknown to me as Commander in Chief.

Vide the late Inſtructions from England, and the commiſſions from the Governor and the Commander in Chief of the forces reſpectively.

Vide the mode of conducting the ſervice in Bengal, as appears from the anſwers of General Clavering to the Queſtions put to him by Sir Robert Fletcher.

Copy of Orders given out to the Troops at Tanjore the 16th April, 1776.

The Company of Artillery, under the command of Capt. Mackay, with the 2d Battalion. 1ſt Brigade, commanded by Major Marcell, to hold themſelves in readineſs to march on Thurſday morning the 18th inſtant for Trichinopoly, leaving behind them one non-commiſſioned officer, and twelve of the Artillery, and three companies of Europeans, with their Officers

compleat, who are to march to-morrow evening into the Little Fort, where quarters will be allotted them. The 2d and 12th Battalions of Seapoys are to march at the ſame time, and encamp in the Fauſſe braye of the Little Fort, where they are to continue until further orders. Col. Harper will order a diſtribution of thoſe places which can be converted into Officers quarters to be made to them. The hoſpital to be removed to Vellum, under the care of Doctor White. And Lord Pigot further orders, "That Doctors Gordon and Wilſon do continue, the firſt with "this garriſon, and the latter to proceed with Major Marcell's detach-"ment; Capt. Cotgrave, with the Battalion of Seapoys under his com-"mand, to hold themſelves in readineſs to march at the ſhorteſt notice."

In the inſtances I have pointed out, I mean not the leaſt reflection upon any one man, or ſet of men: it is my indiſpenſable duty either to ſee the late Inſtructions enforced, or to ſhew the Honourable the Court of Directors, and likewiſe General Clavering, the particular inſtances wherein I think, they are either ſuperſeded, or not carried into execution; and if, in the performance of this part of my duty, I ſhall not have the good fortune to meet the unanimous concurrence of the Board, I can only lament, that we ſhould continue to differ, not upon matters of opinion of our own, but upon what appears to me to be the evident ſenſe of the Company's late Inſtructions, which, at the concluſion of the 40th paragraph, have theſe expreſs words: "The particular powers veſted in our ſaid Gover-"nor and Military Commander in Chief reſpectively, under the authority "of the Commiſſions granted them by the Company, ſhall be exerciſed in "the manner and to the extent herein after-mentioned, *and not other-*"*wiſe.*"

Extract of Letter from General Clavering to the Court of Directors, dated Fort-William, the 20th of July, 1776; received per Grenville, 25th of April, 1777.

GENTLEMEN,

Underſtanding, from a Letter which I have received from Sir Robert Fletcher, that a majority of the Council of Madraſs had by a vote reſolved, after reading the Governor's Civil and the Commander in Chief's Commiſſions, "That the Governor ſhall hold the ſame authority in all "the

" the other Forts and Settlements on that Coaſt, which he holds in Fort " St. George ;" and had in conſequence ordered Colonel Harper, at the head of three Battalions of Seapoys, and a company of Artillery in the Tanjore Country, to put himſelf under his command, and to obey all his orders; and likewiſe had put another Battalion, and a Troop of Horſe under his command, to attend him to Tanjore: he found his Commiſſion of Commander in Chief ſuperſeded, and the orders of the General Court fruſtrated and eluded.

He further informs me, that the Right Honourable Lord Pigot did, in conſequence of that reſolution, iſſue orders to the Troops at Tanjore, as Commander in Chief.

Under theſe circumſtances nothing was left for Sir Robert Fletcher to do, in order to maintain the right which you had aſſigned him as Commander in Chief on that Coaſt, but to proteſt againſt thoſe proceedings, and to wait the determination of your juſtice.

Of ſo deliberate and ſo conſcious a violation of your commands, I may venture to affirm, the Journals of your Councils in India can produce no example.

Your orders were recent, clear and preciſe ; they were contained in the Inſtructions which were to carry into effect the Governor and Commander in Chief's Commiſſion, the firſt article of which declares,

40. " Having taken into our moſt ſerious conſideration the diſputes " which have ariſen in India, on account of the powers claimed by our Go- " vernor and Military Commander in Chief, under their reſpective Com- " miſſions, and the great injury occaſioned to the Service thereby, we " have thought proper, in order to prevent the like inconveniences in " future, to grant a Commiſſion to our Governor-General, conſtituting " him Governor and Commander in Chief of our Fortreſs and Garriſon " of Fort-William and Town of Calcutta; and we have alſo given a " Commiſſion to Lieutenant-General John Clavering, conſtituting him " Commander in Chief of all our Forces in India; and it is our pleaſure, " that the particular powers veſted in our ſaid Governor-General and " Military Commander in Chief reſpectively, under the authority of the " Com-

" Commiſſions granted them by the Company, ſhall be exerciſed in the " manner, and to the extent herein after-mentioned, and not otherwiſe."

The Governor's Military Commiſſion limits his authority as Commander in Chief to the Fort and Garriſon of Fort St. George, and the Town of Madraſs-Patnam; and of all the Forces which now are, or hereafter ſhall be employed for the ſaid United Company within the ſaid Fort, Garriſon, and Town.

The Commiſſion of Sir Robert Fletcher appoints him Commander in Chief of the Forces of the United Company on the Coaſt of Coromandel.

When the terms of the two Commiſſions are compared, and the manner and extent of their powers conſidered, as declared in the Inſtructions, it muſt, I am perſuaded, appear to you, Gentlemen, that the vote of the 25th of March laſt in the Madraſs Council, reſolving, that the Governor ſhould hold the ſame authority in all the other Forts on that Coaſt as in Fort St. George, and the exerciſe he actually did make of thoſe powers at Tanjore, was an uſurpation of your authority to cancel and ſuperſede one of the moſt publick and ſolemn acts of your Honourable Court.

As the office and duties of the Commander in Chief on the Coaſt muſt remain ſuſpended 'till your commands are received, I muſt beg you will be pleaſed to ſend ſuch orders as will enforce obedience to the reſpective Commiſſions, according to the preſent Inſtructions, or with ſuch other limitations as you may think proper to give them.

Extract of Fort St. George Military Conſulations, 20th Auguſt, 1776; received by the Grenville, the 25th of April, 1777.

Extract of Letter from the Commander in Chief,

Letter from the Commander in Chief, reſpecting Batta to the Troops.

To the Right Honourable the Preſident, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

Being prevented, through indiſpoſition, from attending the Council this day, I beg leave to lay before the Board the two papers enloſed, No. 1. containing

containing a comparative view of the ſick in hoſpitals by the returns of the 1ſt Battalion, 2d European regiment now doing duty in Fort St. George for the laſt ſix months, and a ſtate of that Battalion for an equal ſpace of time while at Pondamalee.

The other paper (No. 2) which I beg leave to lay before the Board, contains the ſtate of a Subaltern Officer's expenſes abſolutely neceſſary to his exiſtence; it ſhews the impoſſibility of appearing ſuitable to his character, unleſs the late additional allowance from the chance of half batta in certain garriſons be reſtored.

Colonel Stuart, who took pains to make particular enquiries on this ſubject, has put his name to the encloſed paper; and I dare ſay the Board will find the facts to be juſtly ſtated. The Board moſt probably did not ſee it in this light, when they were pleaſed to order the half batta to be ſtruck off in February laſt; and for my own part I am obliged in truth to confeſs, that my aſſent was an haſty compliance with the earneſt requeſt of the Preſident, though he did not appriſe me of his intention, nor conſult me on the ſubject, previous to his making the motion at the Board. I hope, and moſt earneſtly recommend, a reconſideration of this matter, for it appears upon enquiry to be immediately connected with the health of the Officers, many of whom, I am informed, are at preſent deprived of the means of ſubſiſting themſelves, or appearing in publick ſuitable to their ſtations.

I have the honour to be,

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

Choultry-Plain, Your moſt obedient, and moſt humble ſervant,

Monday, 19th Auguſt, 1776.

ROB. FLETCHER.

Fort St. George,——Auguſt, 1776.

From Colonel Stuart to the Commander in Chief, with ſtatement of a Subaltern's expenſes.

State of an Enſign's neceſſary Expenſes for one month, ſuppoſing three Enſigns to form one meſs, having ſervants in common, and proviſions, &c. at the medium rate of the principal garriſons occupied by the forces under the Preſidency of Madraſs, viz.

To the Expenſes of the meſs for proviſions, liquor, &c. Pices	8	21
Servants wages	2	0
Waſhing and dreſſing linen	0	36
Barber and hair-dreſſer	1	0
Each Officer for one month	12	15 is
For one year Pagodas	148	12

Extra Expenſes for one Year.

	Pagodas	
For one regimental coat	15	20
Two ditto frocks	24	
Two hats	5	
Eighteen ſhirts	15	
Shoes	8	
Stockings	15	
Stocks and handkerchiefs	4	
Breeches	9	
Waiſtcoats	13	
Cooley Taylor	5	
Total Extra Expenſes for one year		112 20
Total neceſſary Expenſes for one year		260 32
The pay of an Enſign for one year - - Pices 230		
Deficiency to make good the neceſſary Expenſe 30 32		
		260 32
The pay of a Lieutenant is	3 0	

In

In the foregoing calculation, no allowance is made either for the firſt coſt or breakage of Meſs utenſils. The officers are ſuppoſed to drink no other liquor than that of the country, or Sherbet. There is no allowance made for wine, even in caſe of ſickneſs; and the means are totally wanting to buy or to maintain either palanquin or horſe amongſt the three, although exerciſe is as eſſentially neceſſary to preſerve the officer's health as the nouriſhment he takes.

The ſubaltern officers of the army, as I am informed, formerly found no difficulty in raiſing the money neceſſary to help them out in the garriſons, in which no half batta was allowed, becauſe in the courſe of two or three years at moſt, it fell to their lot to be ſtationed in places where, by the allowance of half batta, they were enabled to ſave as much as to diſcharge debts neceſſarily incurred.

I am alſo informed, that the Company's proportion of the general expenſe of half batta amounts only to 9000 Pagodas per annum; ſuppoſing then the preceding to be a juſt ſtate of an Officer's expenſes abſolutely neceſſary, it appears that no ſubaltern on this eſtabliſhment, is able, with the greateſt frugality, to live upon his pay, he muſt therefore run in debt, or be obliged to his friends (beſides the time he may have ſerved as a cadet) for ten or twelve years before, in the common courſe of the ſervice, he can attain the rank of Captain; and although it may be ſaid, that the Field Officers and Captains may live upon their pay after they arrive at theſe ranks, yet it is preſumed, it never was the intention of our Honourable Employers, that an Officer ſhould be under the neceſſity of borrowing money for ten or twelve years, or that in the higher ranks they ſhould be entirely deprived of the means to lay up ſome part of their allowance for ſupporting them in old age, or when, from bodily ſickneſs or decay they are unfit to ſerve the Honourable Company.

I have done my utmoſt to inform myſelf impartially on this ſubject: in my ſituation, you know, Sir, I can have no private view in it's ſucceſs farther than the general good of the ſervice; neither is it at the requeſt of any of the officers, who, ſo far as I can ſee, think it their duty in ſilence to ſubmit to every order of their ſuperiors.

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The gentlemen who furniſhed me with the information do not know even the uſe I meant to make of it, which is to requeſt of you, Sir, for the above reaſons, and as eſſentially contributing to the preſervation of the health and ſpirits of the officers in this climate, to take ſuch ſteps as you ſhall think neceſſary to bring this affair under the reconſideration of the Board, in hopes that upon a review and further information, they may perhaps think it proper to reſtore the allowance of half batta in certain garriſons as formerly.

To Brigadier General
Sir Robert Fletcher, &c. &c.

JAMES STUART.

Ordered to lie upon the table.

Letter from the Nabob of Arcot, dated 25th September, 1776.

Received from Mr. Macleane, the 31ſt March, 1777.

His Highneſs the Nabob Wallajau, Ummeer ul Hind, Omdat ul Mulk, Auſuph ul Dowlah, Unweer ud Deen Cawn Behauder, Zuphur Jung, Sepah Salaur, Subahdar of the Carnatick.

To the Honourable the Chairman and Directors of the United Company of Merchants trading to India.

When I did myſelf the pleaſure of writing to you laſt (which was on the 12th and 25th February) I informed you of the readineſs with which I received a garriſon of your troops into the fort of Tanjore, knowing ſuch a meaſure to be agreeable to you, who ever have been, and who, by the bleſſing of God, ever will continue to be my beſt friends. I likewiſe repreſented to you, that ſeeing the orders which you ſent hither about Tuljagee, and his reſtoration to the Government of the Tanjore country, muſt have proceeded from your want of proper information; I would therefore take care in future to give you regularly and fully every information on the ſubject of our mutual affairs.

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Was I, in conſequence of this reſolution, to write you now all that has paſſed ſince writing of my laſt letter, great would be your ſorrow for the ſufferings of your oldeſt and trueſt friend. In judging of the friendſhip with which I regard you, and of courſe the uneaſineſs which you would feel for my unjuſt ſufferings, I have two unerring guides to direct my judgment; the firſt is, a warm remembrance of the intereſt which from the beginning you have taken in my proſperity and happineſs; the ſecond is, the approbation of my own heart, which empowers me to declare, that in no one inſtance, from the day we began the journey of friendſhip together to this hour, have I ever ſtrayed from the path of ſteady attachment to my beſt friends, or ever wiſhed and of true affection for the whole Engliſh nation. As a man moved by his own and the paſſions of others, I may have often felt the conduct of your repreſentatives in too diſagreable a light, and may have expreſſed my ſenſe of it as ſuch, as ſome of their proceedings appeared to me improper; but as a prince placing his dependence upon your faith, and the ſecurity of the Engliſh alliances, I can appeal to my God, that I have never felt any diſtruſt in my mind, nor ſwerved in any degree from the reſolution I early adopted, that of riſing or falling with the ſun of your fortune in Hindoſtan. After the long ſeries of mixed fortune which we had undergone together, a proſpect opened to me at length that filled my ſoul with the gladneſs of hope, and which of itſelf was ſufficient to bind my attachment moſt unalterably and for ever to the Engliſh: I ſaw not only my ſons arrive at maturity, but even their children promiſing further hopes: I brought up my children ſo much in the friendſhip of the Engliſh, that they can never depart from it: how great muſt my happineſs have been in reflecting, that no power remained in the Carnatick but that of the Engliſh, and my family under the protection of the Engliſh and our rights. In this ſituation, the chief occupation of my mind was forming a plan, which, with the approbation of his Majeſty and the Company, would for ever ſecure to my poſterity the friendſhip of the Engliſh, and which would eſtabliſh ſuch a well ſecured intereſt in this country, that neither the power of France nor that of all the Hindoſtan Governments could ever endanger our poſſeſſion of the country.

It is my warmeſt wiſh to attend particularly to two things;—Firſt, the friendſhip of the Company and the Engliſh nation, which I regard above every thing, and which I am entitled to by the loſs of my father and his for-

tune in their alliance, as alſo by ſpending my youth and treaſury with them; Secondly, as the friendſhip and alliance of the Company and the Engliſh nation exiſt with me, ſo ſhould they with my children, and whatever power I ſhould appoint to my ſons, and whatever plan I ſhould form in regard to them, ſhould be confirmed to them through the favour and aſſiſtance of the gentlemen of the Company; and none of the Engliſh ſubjects or Company's ſervants ſhould interfere therein. I am, without doubt, the firmeſt and moſt uſeful friend to the Company in India, and whatever I fix for my ſons ſhall be with a view to preſerve the tranquillity of the Carnatick, and the preſent and future advantage of the Company, and the publick ſafety.

That the forming and bringing to effect ſuch a plan, equally for the ſecurity of your future intereſt and that of my family, was my greateſt and ſole ambition, ſome of your chief and ableſt ſervants were well informed. How could I better employ my attention as a prince, an ally, and a father? Thus were my thoughts employed from the beginning, and eſpecially from the time Tanjore was reduced, and an enemy of the Carnatick thereby, in my opinion, removed, who never would be quiet 'till he had either ruined the peace of the Carnatick, or his own power. Soon after the reduction of Tanjore, the diſputes with the Dutch, and the threatened invaſion of the Marattas, employed my attention: afterwards ſuch diſputes aroſe among your ſervants here as rendered it impoſſible for me, during that period of party and miſrepreſentation to addreſs you. Not 'till the arrival of Lord Pigot did theſe diſputes ceaſe entirely in their effect; judge then, my friends, what a ſhock my heart muſt have felt on underſtanding from his Lordſhip the buſineſs on which he came; in one hour I ſaw the labour of my whole life, the honours of my alliance with the Engliſh, expoſed to the moſt public diſgrace, my enemies raiſed to the moſt unmerited power, and the thorn of our mutual deſtruction planted in the garden, in the clearing of which our joint labours have been employed for upwards of thirty-five years. What I felt upon this occaſion, that power can alone know, who ſees the inſide of the human ſoul; but in this hour of extremity I teſtified to you and to the world the moſt unſhaken firmneſs of friendſhip, and the firmeſt dependence upon the ultimate juſtice of the Company: to recite to you, ſtep by ſtep, the meaſures which were adopted by Lord Pigot, to violate your ſacred engagements for the protection of my country, my perſon, and

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my honour, would be a heavy taſk, and ſuch as the preſent low ſituation of Lord Pigot would render painful to my mind; it is ſufficient that I have acquainted your ſervants at Bengal, and that they will inform you. What have I done to be thus treated? is there one ſingle act of my conduct that can be fairly placed in the ſcale againſt me as a reaſon for ſuch injuries? Finding the innumerable difficulties amidſt which I was thrown, and conſidering that in attempting to extricate myſelf, I might only commit ſome error contrary to my old friendſhip to the Company, I thought it better to permit Lord Pigot to do as he pleaſed, and to reſerve to myſelf only the right of repreſentation: this was all the oppoſition made by me to even the moſt violent acts of his Lordſhip's oppreſſion; by this conduct I hope not only to merit your approbation, but to obtain from you public redreſs for every injuſtice that has been done me. You will now ſee very clearly how neceſſary it is for you to draw a line of protection and ſecurity round my rights and privileges, to prevent the future ill conduct of any of your governing ſervants. It appears to me likewiſe, that from the violence that has prevailed in the Councils of your ſervants, it becomes not me to give my opinion relative to their internal diſputes; this is a buſineſs, of which you alone are the proper judges; I have neither right nor wiſh to interfere in it, therefore I do not meddle with it; it is ſufficient for me to obſerve, that I am continually unhappy when there are ſuch diſputes. For promoting the advantage and proſperity of your affairs, and the tranquillity of the Carnatick and the public ſafety, I have and ever will aſſiſt your Repreſentatives the Government here; they have confirmed to me your promiſes of friendſhip, therefore I hope our mutual buſineſs will flouriſh. It is well known, that your orders in regard to Tanjore were given in conſequence of groundleſs reports that prevailed in England, and from your not being informed of the real ſtate of affairs here: and though Lord Pigot, when he arrived at Madraſs, plainly perceived that matters had been miſrepreſented, and though I told him ſo, and requeſted him verbally, and by letter (after repreſenting to him the true ſtate of affairs) to wait your further orders, and not to deſtroy the rights of your old friend, he gave no attention to me; it was unneceſſary for his Lordſhip to have proceeded as he did, when he plainly ſaw that matters had been miſrepreſented; but his ſeizure of the crop that was on the grounds, and which I had ſowed and cultivated at an immenſe expenſe, was an act that could never be warranted; and unleſs you give orders to reſtore me the Tanjore country, which is my right, I ſhall never be

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able to pay my debts, or to clear my affairs of embarraſſment. The buſineſs of leaving ſuch a large ſum of money as the revenues of Tanjore in the hands of the Rajah, who is diſencumbered by his ſituation of debt or any great publick expenſe, while the reſt of the Carnatick can hardly pay the intereſt of it's debts incurred by taking Tanjore, is a piece of ruinous injuſtice, and totally contrary to the good ſenſe of your orders about Tanjore in 1769. Tulgajee will certainly employ the revenues in getting the Marattas, the French, or the Dutch, to extricate him from the hands of the Engliſh; your ſhewing ſuch favour to him (after the many attempts he has made to deſtroy the peace of the Carnatick) is juſt as bad as ſhewing favour to the French, the Dutch, or Hyder Ally. You will hear probably from Colonel Upton, your Vakeel at Poona, what he has diſcovered of the conduct of Tulgajee's emiſſaries there ever ſince Lord Pigot's reſtoration of him. I inform you of it as a certainty, which will ſoon ſhew itſelf clearly, that he has likewiſe renewed his old connexions with the Dutch; but why ſhould I write you on this ſubject now? I am confident, that in conſequence of my former repreſentations to you of my rights and diſtreſſes, you muſt have long before now repealed the orders, which Lord Pigot often told me he had obtained from you by his own influence, but which you cannot but diſapprove of, on the leaſt conſideration of the purpoſes for which they were obtained. I am ready at all times to give the Rajah a ſufficient maintainance, and every ſecurity for himſelf and his family's protection. There are many others of my ſubjects in my dominions poſſeſſed of rights and antiquity ſuperior to Tulgajee: I never moleſt them, and it is well known with what tenderneſs I treat them, while they do not attempt independence of my authority.

Next to the bad policy and injuſtice of violating publick engagements to your Allies, is certainly the bad faith of giving protection to any of the people that belong to your Allies, and who deſert their maſters; I have a heavy complaint to make on this ſubject, and I particularly requeſt, you will give the ſtrongeſt orders to your Servants not to interfere with my juriſdiction over my own people, nor to interfere in the affairs of my Family, or Internal Government.

I have fully explained my ſituation to your faithful Servants at Bengal, and have now laid my inmoſt thoughts before you; what remaineth for me then, but to place my whole dependence in your juſtice and ſupport,

and

and to renew to you my declaration of this truth, which is, that while I live my attachment and that of my Family ſhall remain unalterably ſtrong towards my beſt Friends, the Company, and the whole Engliſh Nation.

What can I ſay more ?

Given at Chepauk, Sept. 25th, 1776.

P. S. I encloſe for your information a copy of the laſt Letter which the Governor of Madraſs has ſent me : it encloſed a copy of the Reſolutions of the Governor-General and Council, which I likewiſe ſend.

From the day of Lord Pigot's arrival to his being depoſed, the time that ſhould have been employed in promoting the buſineſs of the Company and me, and eſtabliſhing the tranquillity of the Carnatick, was ſpent in diſputes and diſagreements amongſt your Servants. After his Lordſhip had finiſhed the Tanjore buſineſs, I told him, that what he had done was contrary to my rights, and that I would make my repreſentations fully to the Company, and expect juſtice from England; that he ought then to give his attention to the buſineſs of the Company, and the advantage of the Carnatick and publick affairs ; but his Lordſhip gave no attention to any thing, except to carrying on ſuch buſineſs as anſwered his own purpoſes, and which he had planned in England, and came here to execute. I am the firſt and firmeſt friend to the Company in India, and I conſider our proſperity and adverſity as mutual; and every thing which I think for the advantage of your affairs and the Carnatick I always lay before your Repreſentatives here. In the Government of Mr. Wynch, I acquainted him by letter with the intention of Hyder Ally Cawn to conquer the Cudapor Country, dependent upon the Carnatick, and alſo the Countries of Adony, Humoul, and that of Morarow. They had applied to me, and informed me, that if the Company and I would aſſiſt them, they and their Troops would always be attached to us in good and bad fortune : this I laid before Mr. Wynch, and told him, that if he would comply with it, I would ſend a Garriſon of my Troops to Cudapor; that Bazalet Jung, Phouſdar of Adony, Manour Cawn, Phouſdar of Humoul, Morarow, a friend of the Company, and the Zemindars in thoſe parts, could aſſemble troops to the amount of twelve thouſand horſe, and fifteen or

twenty thouſand Seapoys, and would join us without any expenſe to us; that thoſe Troops, with the Company's and mine, would be capable of keeping Hyder Ally in awe, and preventing him from raiſing troubles or adding to his power, and that he would be thereby obliged to be ſubject to our orders.

After Lord Pigot's arrival here, Hyder Ally formed an alliance with the Phouſdar of Cudapor, defeated Bazalet Jung's Troops, and marching againſt the Fort of Guttee, where Morarow reſided, he inveſted it; and though I applied to his Lordſhip to write to Hyder Ally that Morarow was included in a treaty of alliance with the Company, and that he ſhould not attack him, his Lordſhip would not comply; therefore the Fort and Country of Morarow fell into Hyder Ally's hands, and he himſelf was made priſoner, and carried in the moſt diſgraceful manner to Serringapatam, where he has received, and now receives, every kind of diſhonour and injury. Now that Hyder Ally has got poſſeſſion of the Country of Morarow; and in fact governs Cudapor, Cumoul, and Adony, there is no end of his arrogance; and he is daily employed in largely encreaſing his Troops and Military Stores: he has wrote to France, requeſting a conſiderable number of Troops to be ſent to him, and offering to pay for them; and he has alſo prevailed on the Governor of Negapatam to write to Batavia for the ſame purpoſe. His ſole intention is to raiſe diſturbances in the Carnatick, and to deſtroy the Engliſh. A number of his Troops are aſſembled towards Dindegul, near Madura, which is part of my Country, and in the diſtrict of Jugdee, which is in the neighbourhood of the Fort of Ambore and Vellore, belonging to me.

To be able to oppoſe Hyder Ally, it is neceſſary that the Company ſhould have Cavalry; ſeeing this, I raiſed ſome regiments, but from the bad air in this county many of the horſes died, therefore I uſed every year to buy others, for compleating the regiments at the feaſt of Tripety, which is in my country, where the dealers uſed to bring their horſes to ſell; but from Hyder Ally's interfering in the Cudapor Country, and poſting his people in all the roads leading to Tripety, and even within three cos of it, he forcibly ſtops all the horſes, and ſends them into his own country: he alſo ſtops the merchants; therefore it is very difficult for me to get either horſes, camels, or gold cloths. My regiments now want many horſes, and I cannot ſupply them. It is the intention of Hyder Ally Cawn to overpower the Engliſh, by having a large body of horſe, and by not letting us have any. As I am a true friend to you, gentlemen, I write thus fully for your information, and hope for the peace of the Carnatick and the proſperity of my affairs from your friendſhip and aſſiſtance.

Extract of a Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, dated 7th May, 1776.

Ishaventarow, who had been in my ſervice, fled to Hyder's Country after this fort was taken; when he heard that your Lordſhip had been pleaſed to re-eſtabliſh me in my Dominions, he aſked Hyder's permiſſion to return hither. Hyder deſired him to carry a Letter, together with a preſent of a dreſs, and ſome horſes for me; Iſhaventarow told him, that if he went as his Vackeel he could obey his commands with propriety, but not otherwiſe. Hyder told him, that he muſt at all events carry a Letter, which he did, and preſented it to me; it is encloſed for your Lordſhip's peruſal, and I wait your orders concerning it.

Tranſlation of a Letter from Hyder Ally to the Rajah of Tanjore.

I received with great pleaſure the accounts of your reſtoration from my Vackeel at Madraſs; ſix months before you loſt Tanjore I frequently wrote you of your approaching danger, but I have not been able to learn whether you thought my advice worthy of attention. It was your fate that theſe things ſhould happen: however, by the favour of the Almighty your kingdom has been reſtored to you. The Europeans have ſhewn you great marks of friendſhip and regard; you muſt therefore abide by their advice, and they will continue to aſſiſt you.

Iſhaventarow took up his reſidence here ſome time; he is very deſirous to return to you. When he ſignified his intention to me, I gave him leave to depart. He is a man of family, and your ſervant, and will inform you of every thing relating to this Country.

Let me hear of your welfare that I may rejoice.—What can I ſay more?

THE END.

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on 08 January, 2019